



NACY 

National Alliance for
Children and Youth

Annual Report 2011-2012

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Failing to Plan, is Planning to Fail

The adage is that “failing to plan, is planning to fail”. Unfortunately in Canada we are guilty of this omission and our children and youth are paying the price. During the past decade there has been a growing neglect of Canada’s public agenda regarding children and youth. While the national political discussion has focused on many other issues, our political leaders have ignored the important priority of the health, well being and development of our children, youth and families.

This absence of a national policy direction regarding children and youth in Canada is a significant shortcoming for many reasons. The continuing consequences of the post 2008 economic crisis have had a significant impact on families with rising unemployment (including youth unemployment), growing income disparity, restraint in public investments for services that support families and children. We know through the accumulating research evidence that these shortcomings disproportionately impact on children and youth, at a critical time in their development, and create serious and costly long term consequences. The failure to make the right investments in the growing up of our children and youth, at the time when they most need it, is both tragic and short sighted.

This lack of a national vision for Canadian children and youth not only sets us apart from many other progressive and forward looking countries in a competitive global environment, it fails to recognize the demographic reality of Canada as an “aging society” that will be increasingly reliant upon a smaller number of young people to sustain our standard of living. The lack of a national plan in Canada has made us increasingly susceptible to growing disparities across the country. Those provinces and territories with the resources and vision to make the necessary social investments will do so. Those facing the biggest social challenges have the least access to the resources to address these problems. In so many areas of national priority we recognize the leadership that the federal government can play in partnership with provinces and territories, ensuring that financial resources are available and working to develop shared priorities and standards. In the area of health and social policy, which is most critical for child and youth development, the federal government is becoming less involved. Budget 2012 heralded the further erosion of social policy development in Canada and saw the

elimination of more national social organizations that provide valuable development and coordination roles. This is a sharp contrast to the recent 10 year commitment in creating the Mental Health Commission of Canada and a national mental health plan. This raises the larger question, *what is Canada’s current commitment to children, youth and families?*

In 2010 NACY started a national study “Taking Stock,” (funded by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada) to examine the status and opportunities of community based child and youth serving organizations. A final report will describe the resilience of community organizations in the face of many challenges, innovation and adaptation to meet these demands, and need for further support. Not surprisingly, a key finding is the growing gap and vacuum in planning and national consensus to make our children and youth our first priority!

An important role for NACY will be to convene and develop a truly national group of people who can catalyze a much bigger conversation across Canada.

The next federal election is scheduled for October 2015. It is my hope that NACY will contribute to a new commitment of making children, youth and families a significant public policy priority. In fact, the history of Canada and our success as a country has been based upon national dreams that bring together Canadians in common cause. Our future success in a globalized world will greatly depend upon our ability to work together to make the requisite investments in our children and youth and prepare them for tomorrow.

Special thanks to the dedicated and hand-on voluntary efforts of my fellow Board Members and gratitude to our General Coordinator, Amanda Mayer, and the Taking Stock project team, Michelle Dagnino, Dr. Grant Charles and the Advisory Committee.



Peter M. Dudding
Chair, National Alliance for
Children & Youth



Board of Directors 2011-2012

Nancy Birnbaum

Riverside Consulting, Toronto, ON

Maria Cain

HeartWood Centre for Community Youth Development,
Halifax, NS

Sue Delanoy

Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada & KidSCAN,
Saskatoon, SK

Jennifer Dickson

Leslie Entreprises, Ottawa, ON

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National Alliance for Children and Youth, Ottawa, ON

Dave W. Farthing (Treasurer)

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Ottawa, ON

Amy Mapara

Canadian Red Cross, Ottawa, ON

Carol Matusicky

United Way of Lower Mainland, Early Childhood
Development and Middle Childhood Matters, Board
Voice Society of BC, Burnaby, BC

Amanda Penrice

Middle Childhood Matters Coalition, Toronto, ON

Tara Stang (Secretary)

The Muttart Foundation, Edmonton, AB

Building on The Past ... Moving Towards the Future

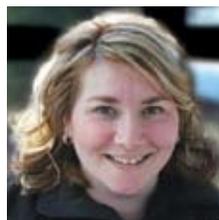
Building on the success of the last 6 years, it has been another busy year for NACY. We have built up our outreach and emphasized the importance of partnerships with our member organizations, governments, and other local, regional and national organizations committed to righting the current challenges facing children, youth and families.

Some highlights of NACY's undertakings in the past year include:

- Expanding our presence within the **social media** channels of Facebook and Twitter allowing for members and sector colleagues to communicate with one another and to keep fellow activists updated;
 - Continuing to build the **SuperSearch** feature, a search engine that enables users to search through child and youth sector and other relevant websites using just one central search engine;
 - Producing the popular monthly **e-Digest** full of important events, initiatives, and policy work being done by many great organizations in the child and youth sector;
 - Adapting to the new **Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act**;
 - Bringing together leaders from the sector to share knowledge and experience, and to provide guidance and advice on how to survive and grow during challenging times and how to better collaborate and share information under the HRSDC funded **Taking Stock project**. NACY has hosted Key Informant Interviews and Think Tanks to share information and concerns and has captured case studies of organizations that have found innovative ways to succeed during challenging times;
 - Partnering with Imagine Canada on the **Sector Monitor** initiative in efforts to gather data on the health and vitality of the child and youth sector on an ongoing basis;
- **Networking lunches** hosted to highlight topics and allow members and sector colleagues to capitalize on the power of networking (i.e., Brown Bag lunch with Dr. Paul Kershaw – policy dialogue around the declining standard of living for the generation raising young kids and presented his “new deal for families”);
 - Participating on national **advisory committees** and attending national and regional **forums**;
 - Releasing (1) a **policy statement** to all parties on the need for a greater focus on children, youth and families, (2) a policy paper series called **Organizations in Transformation** with a view of sharing interesting stories and encouraging others to share their own transformation experience and advice and (3) a **white paper** series on different issues concerning children, youth and families.

As in past years, we owe our success to the team of people who make NACY what it is: our Board of Directors, our consultants, our members across Canada, our valued volunteers and partner organizations. All of whom have leveraged our unique role and cross-sectoral perspective as the voice of the child and youth sector to facilitate the kind of debate and discussion that will create the Canada we all envision for our children and youth. We thank each and every one of them for their many contributions.

In partnership with organizations across Canada we are determined to continue to work toward a meaningful national child and youth strategy that will galvanize the efforts of all Canadians.



Amanda Mayer
General Coordinator



Members

4-H Council

Canadian Aids Society

Canadian Association for Community Living

Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs

Canadian Association of Social Workers

Canadian Paediatric Society

Canadian Public Health Association

Canadian Red Cross

Canadian Teacher's Federation

Canadian Unitarian Council

Canadian Women's Foundation

Child & Youth Advocate, Government of NFLD & Labrador

Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada

Child Welfare League of Canada

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada

Boys & Girls Club of Canada

Family Service Canada

Girl Guides of Canada

Heartwood Centre for Community Youth Development

Kids Help Phone

Kinsmen Activity Place

Laidlaw Foundation

Landon Pearson Centre

Muttart Foundation

PHAC - Division of Childhood & Adolescence

Save the Children

Scouts Canada

Vanier Institute of the Family

UNICEF Canada

United Way Centraide Canada

YMCA Canada

YWCA Canada

YOUNCAN

Taking Stock: Supporting Canadian Child and Youth Agencies in Times of Economic Downturn

Providing knowledge and leadership required to mobilize members and partners in communities across Canada to “take stock” and identify how the most recent economic crisis impacts our sector, devise ways and means to ensure that Canadian families continue to have access to the supports and services that they need, and to emerge from this crisis with strengthened agencies within a stronger sector.

Building on the successful launch of the project in 2010 where NACY ratified the project’s goals and objectives, 2011-12 focused on a series of activities dedicated to building resources aimed at improving the child and youth sector.

Given the scope of the project, NACY determined the most effective way to inform and gather sector participation and input was to use a multi-pronged approach to “Take Stock” of what has been happening in the child and youth sector.

Following a Think Tank held in Ottawa in 2010, NACY hit the road and hosted sessions in Atlantic Canada (Halifax) Central Canada (Toronto) and Western Canada (Vancouver). These sessions provided sector leaders the opportunity to share their knowledge and experience, to provide guidance and advice on how to survive and grow during challenging times and how to better collaborate and share information on issues facing the child and youth sector.

NACY also ‘took stock’ of what has been happening in the sector through key informant interviews, case studies and focus groups, providing NACY with insight into what challenges and successes the child and youth sector was seeing. A survey was conducted on the Economic Impact to understand how the economic turmoil

starting in 2008-2009 has affected organizations and to determine how NACY can better support its member agencies as we move forward.

In addition, a partnership with Imagine Canada on the Sector Monitor has allowed NACY to survey members with a focus of capturing a snapshot of the health, vitality and major issues affecting those organizations. Collectively through these activities we have taken stock of current economic realities impacting our member agencies in the child and youth sector in the areas of: capacity building, knowledge acquisition and sustainability. We have also shared and germinated ideas, solutions and approaches in the child and youth sector in order to contribute to a building of increased capacity and/or more efficiencies, gain more knowledge to support agencies facing crisis and to support and strengthen agencies to achieve greater sustainability.

2012-13 promises to be busy as NACY wraps up the Taking Stock project and highlights the findings captured in the activities over the past 3 years.

A wrap-up Strategy Session will be hosted in 2012 to bring together thought leaders from within the child and youth sector to discuss project findings and create a dialogue on how to bring children, youth and their families back on the public policy agenda in Canada.



SuperSearch: Child & Youth Sector Resources at Your Fingertips!

NACY's new SuperSearch website feature is a custom built search engine that finds information related to the child and youth sector in Canada, through one central site. Using key words, SuperSearch not only searches NACY's website, but also websites of each partner organization to find reports, blog posts, articles, best practices, etc. relating to children and youth.

The SuperSearch Network continues to grow, thus increasing the resources available.

Try it out and join ... it is free!

www.nacy.ca/resource-centre/supersearch

Financial Statements

(Updated as of October 2012)

BALANCE SHEET

	March 31, 2012	March 31, 2011
Current Assets:		
Cash	54,959	81,962
GST/HST Receivable	<u>6,168</u>	<u>13,002</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>61,127</u>	<u>94,964</u>
Capital Assets	<u>3,309</u>	<u>3,309</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$64,436</u>	<u>\$98,272</u>
Liabilities & Equity:		
Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	-	83,763
Deferred Revenue	<u>47,484</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>47,484</u>	<u>83,763</u>
Equity:		
Retained Earnings	14,509	11,174
Earnings/(Loss) Current Period	<u>2,443</u>	<u>3,335</u>
Total Equity	<u>16,952</u>	<u>14,509</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity	<u>\$64,436</u>	<u>\$98,272</u>

INCOME STATEMENT

	March 31, 2012	March 31, 2011
Income:		
Memberships	5,600	4,600
Gov't of Canada - HRSDC	153,514	200,000
Other Income	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Income	<u>159,117</u>	<u>204,800</u>
Expenses:		
Accounting	11,000	11,000
Bank Charges	158	172
Contracted Services	16,000	16,000
Insurance	710	745
Meeting Expenses	7,813	414
Office Expenses	3,056	1,186
Professional Fees	93,546	97,965
Professional Memberships	100	280
Specialty Consultants	1,869	36,613
Telecommunications	4,294	6,429
Travel and Accommodation	<u>18,128</u>	<u>30,660</u>
Total Expenses	<u>156,674</u>	<u>201,465</u>
NET INCOME/(LOSS) FOR YEAR	<u>\$2,443</u>	<u>\$3,335</u>



Special Thanks

NACY gratefully acknowledges the commitment of supporters who have contributed to the success of our 2011-12 activities. Special thanks to Imagine Canada, the Public Policy Forum and Miller Thompson LLP for their in-kind support.



Photos courtesy of NACY member organizations and affiliates:

Canadian Paediatrics Society
Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada
Saint James Music Academy
UNICEF Canada
YOU CAN
YWCA Canada



Stay Connected

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