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NACY ANEJ

National Alliance for
Children and Youth

L'alliance nationale pour
l'enfance et la jeunesse

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Policy Developments

The 2017 Federal budget has been released and can be accessed [here](#). According to [reports](#), \$7 billion has been allotted to early learning and childcare over the next ten years; aims have been made to increase several affordable childcare spaces for low and modest income families by supporting the creation of 40,000 subsidized spaces. The option for a longer period of parental leave and proposed changes that enable working mothers to access leave benefits is also discussed, with extensions on parental leave up to 18 months (at a lower benefit rate of 33% as opposed to 55% for 12 months) and allowing expectant mothers to claim maternity benefits 12 weeks before their due date.

As well, there is marked progress on a national [housing strategy](#) and affordable housing for Canadian families. The budget's inclusion of funds for [Indigenous children](#) is also recognized, with \$3.4 billion being dedicated over the course of five years for infrastructure, health and education. Overall, the budget's framework focuses on issues affecting children, young Canadians and their families.

Other organizations have responded to the 2017 Budget:

- The Canadian Association for Community Living's [guide](#) looks at advantages of the federal budget. Their analysis is specific to how the new strategies impact Canadians affected by disability, with core themes revolving around federal accessibility legislation, the disability tax credit, the Canada caregiver credit and other commitments the budget has considered for disadvantaged Canadian families.
- The Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children has posted an [analysis](#) that looks at the budget's potential for making a positive impact on the social and economic well-being of Canadians. The report outlines areas that require further improvement as well. For a more inclusive and accessible Canada, the analysis persuades that further commitments to child development, food security, child rights impact assessments, a children's budget and the appointment of a Commissioner for children and youth would benefit the policy groundwork.
- Campaign 2000 has also released a [response](#) to the federal budget. The network acknowledges the policy changes, social assistance and investments made in the 2017 budget, but suggests more immediate funding measures will help ensure Canada's upcoming Poverty Reduction Strategy be effective in matching the reality for Canadians.

News in the Sector



UNICEF Canada has made a submission to the British Columbia Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth's review of the Representative for Children and Youth Act. Entitled *The Legislated Functions of the Representative Can't Be Phased Out: The Rights and Interests of British Columbia Children and Youth Depend on It*, UNICEF addresses the most pressing issues related to the representative's mandate. You can view more about UNICEF's views and read UNICEF's six recommendations for the standing committee in the [full summary](#).

Alberta is investing \$10 million on pilot projects for childcare that will cost parents \$25 a day, as part of a program the Albertan government introduced in the fall of 2016. There are plans to expand the program as finances become available. Almost 1,300 childcare spaces are to become accessible, and will fill gaps in service such as providing flexible hours and care for special needs children. The centres will support a variety of families, including immigrants and refugees, First Nations, and those on low incomes. It is estimated that 119 new staff will be hired and it is expected the program will give 357 Albertans the childcare they need to enter the workforce. You can read the article [here](#).

Legislative proposals are being made for amendment to the federal Citizenship Act to allow Canadian residents under the age of 18 to apply on their own for Canadian citizenship under some circumstances. Canadian law currently requires permanent residents who want to apply for citizenship to be at least 18 years of age or to be included in a parent or guardian's immigration application. The proposal would apply to a cross-section of youths in Canada - including asylum seekers, children estranged from their parents, young people with criminal convictions, and minors without dual passports. You can read the article [here](#).

April Spotlight



- Members of NACY attended the Sandbox Summit on April 6th, hosted by the Sandbox Project and the Children and Youth in Challenging Contexts (CYCC) Network, held at the Telus Tower in Toronto. It was an opportunity to collaborate with the multi-sector community, bringing together non-profit leaders, researchers, service providers, health professionals, practitioners, educators, students, and leaders. The theme for this year was *Fairness for Children*. The interactive event energized and inspired those working with children and youth. The core themes of the event revolved around mental health; education; play and recreation; innovation in the sector; healthy bodies; and well-being. These themes determined the summit agenda for panels, workshops and one-on-one opportunities to network.

One of the high points of the occasion occurred when Lisa Wolff was asked to present on behalf of UNICEF Canada, reviewing the development of a Canadian Index of Child and Youth Wellbeing with the summit's participants. Participants worked in small groups to respond to the evolving needs of young people and helped identify the trends that are shaping their lives. The goal of these conversations was to provide input into the development of the index. Outcomes from this session have been published in a [report](#) entitled *Foresight Report: What's the state of children and youth in Canada?*

In the afternoon, 'Open Space' conversations occurred, led by the CYCC Network and Young Canadians Roundtable on Health (YCRH) youth hosting team. This part of the summit created a vibrant atmosphere where attendees shared promising practices and lived experience,

formulating action plans for the challenges ahead. The Sandbox Summit provided an effective and valuable opportunity to think about the ways we can prioritize the futures of young Canadians and make a real difference in their lives. Participants of the Sandbox Summit left with resources, ideas, and information for change-making.



Funding Announcements

The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and BMW Group have announced a return of the Intercultural Innovation Award. Initiatives that promote intercultural understanding, with the aim of alleviating identity-based conflicts around the world, are encouraged to apply before the May 31st, 2017 deadline. Award recipients will be given a monetary contribution to help their project expand and replicate, with a first prize of USD \$40,000. They will also take part in a one-year support program that includes training and capacity-building, increased visibility, access to a network of change-makers working in intercultural dialogue and ongoing project-specific mentoring. Apply [here](#).

The Vancouver Foundation's Community Poverty Reduction Fund is designed to address the root causes of poverty by supporting community-inspired social innovations. Supported projects will seek to better understand the underlying root causes of poverty, or will test the ability to influence the systemic behaviours that are creating or holding poverty in place, or will work to scale a proven innovation. Grants from the Community Poverty Reduction Fund will be made through Vancouver Foundation's [Field of Interest Grants program](#), and applications will be assessed against the social innovation criteria specified in their [funding guidelines](#).

The Youth Opportunities Fund (YOF) is an annual program that provides grants and capacity-building supports to youth-led grassroots groups and collaboratives serving young people. YOF initiatives improve outcomes for youth facing multiple barriers to economic and social wellbeing. It benefits youth aged 12 to 25 and their families, and who are Indigenous youth, racialized youth, youth with disabilities, youth from low-income homes, remote communities, etc. For registration guidelines and deadlines, visit [here](#).

In 2017, the United Nations Association in Canada Calgary Branch will award five grants valued at \$1,000 each to registered charities and non-profits seeking to implement community benefit projects in the local area. The deadline to apply is May 12th, 2017. Should you have a project that meets their mandates, you can apply to their [funding program](#).

The Youth Education Bursary was established by the Federation of Community Social Services of British Columbia to encourage and support young people in pursuing a career in the sector. The bursary program supports young people 25 years old or younger. Since 2009, the bursary program has awarded \$143,100 in bursaries to 127 recipients to help students with the financial costs of tuition, books, and supplies for post-secondary studies in human social services. [Learn more](#).



Events and Opportunities

Join the Association of Family Resource Programs (FRP Canada) for their biennial

national conference September 25th-27th, 2017 in London, Ontario. This year's theme is "*The Power of Play*," with adjoining themes including Fathering, Financial Literacy, Brain Development, Outdoor Adventurous Play, and so much more. Confirm your attendance [here](#).



The Ontario Society of Physical Activity Promoters in Public Health (OSPAPPH) is having its First Annual Conference: *Research to Action on Risky Play and Sedentary Behaviour* will take place June 6th, 2017 in Mississauga, Ontario. It promises to be a pivotal professional development opportunity for both public health staff working on physical activity promotion, and others from relevant health, recreation and community organizations. It is targeted and relevant to work at a local level in public health physical activity promotion and injury prevention and well aligned with the new draft Standards for Public Health Programs and Services. See the [full agenda](#).

The Ontario Association of Child and Youth Care (OACYC) and Humber College's School of Community and Social Services are hosting a two-day provincial conference entitled *The Journey* from May 31st - June 2nd, 2017. It will offer professionals an opportunity to come together, engage and explore, share expertise and experiences, and enhance knowledge regarding Child and Youth Care Practice methods and models. Details on the conference can be found [here](#).

The 14th Annual Summer Institute on Early Childhood Development will take place June 2nd, 2017 in Toronto, Ontario. The Summer Institute is an annual collaboration between the School of Early Childhood at George Brown College and the Atkinson Centre for Society and Child Development at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education/University of Toronto. The Institute strives to offer timely information to inform research, policy and practice. This year's institute seeks to address 'Inequity in Canada through Early Childhood Education.' For more on the event, click on this [link](#).

The UBC Summer Institute: Supporting Aboriginal Families of Young Children with Disabilities will bring together early child education students, professionals, and others interested in early childhood and infant development, to explore the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Recommendations as Canada begins to celebrate 150 Years. Register by May 26th, 2017. The event will take place from July 8th-15th, 2017 at UBC Vancouver and off-campus locations. Further information can be found [here](#).

Indigenous youth aged 16-18 can apply for a summer job through the [First Nations Natural Resources Youth Employment Program](#). The government of Ontario has developed a 6-week summer program where individuals live in a field camp and report daily, working with experienced supervisors on projects in the forestry and mining industries, with an opportunity to gain work experience and professional skills.



Information Docket

The Society for Children and Youth of BC has created a resource booklet that provides information and ideas for Aboriginal early years practitioners on how they can support children to learn about their rights. [Download](#) the booklet.

The BC Poverty Reduction Coalition has launched a [website](#) called *Make Poverty Public* to advocate for a poverty reduction plan. The website has stories of people living in poverty and facing challenging circumstances, a summary of the measures each political party is proposing to reduce poverty, ideas for taking action online and in communities across the province, as well as advocacy, election and background resources.

Training and Workshops

A new webinar is being offered May 11th exploring trends in children's



health, well-being and social emotional development, as well as share stories and resources to support school districts and communities working towards promoting positive assets and well-being for children. The webinar will be run by Dr. Kimberly Schonert-Reichl and Superintendent Greg Smyth. You can [sign up](#) for the webinar and submit questions.

The Children's Health and the Environment Workshop & Symposium: *Moving Research to Action for Healthy Kids* will take place June 26th-28th, 2017 in London, Ontario. Practitioners, policymakers, health promoters and providers, community service and care providers, designers and planners, educators and all others interested in providing healthy environments for children can join this informative and collaborative workshop to explore research and successful intervention techniques that will provide healthier environments for children in all communities. [Registration](#) is now open.

Reaching IN...Reaching OUT (RIRO) Resiliency Skills Training uses a relationship-based, cognitive-behavioural approach to help service providers help young children and families develop self-regulation skills and a "resilient" perspective in the face of life's daily stressors, serious problems and opportunities. For Francophone, communities, RIRO is now accepting applications to attend the first 3-day RIRO Trainer Intensive in French from Aug 21st-23rd, 2017. For more info about RIRO Resiliency Skills training, visit their [website](#).

The KMb (Knowledge, Mobilization and Evaluation) [Toolkit](#) is a free online toolkit containing reports, policy documents, videos, how-to-guides, surveys, questionnaires, and other tools created by the Children and Youth in Challenging Contexts (CYCC) Network and its partners. Get help creating a knowledge mobilization plan, discover how to self-evaluate your own program or service, and learn about best and promising practices for improving the mental health and well being of vulnerable young people. The CYCC Network is currently looking for people to evaluate their toolkit. If interested, e-mail cycc@dal.ca.



Community Resources



Postpartum Depression: Action Towards Causes and Treatment (PACT) Canada is an international group of clinicians and scientists committed to understanding the genetic cause of postpartum depression and postpartum psychosis. They are working to engage women who currently have or in the past have had postpartum depression or postpartum psychosis in a genetics research study using a free iOS mobile app. In Canada, this study is open to any woman over age 18 who has ever had a live birth. For more information please see below or visit their [website](#). To participate, the free iOS app can be downloaded from the iTunes Canada App Store.

The Non-Profit Employer Engagement Project is being launched as part of the Ontario Bridge Training Program for Internationally Trained Individuals and is designed to strengthen the capacity of 50 non-profit organizations in the Ottawa region to support their ability to recruit, hire, and retain internationally educated individuals. The project will support 40 internationally trained individuals to gain employment and a mentorship opportunity. Interested organizations can register [here](#).



The Encyclopedia on Early Childhood Development, produced by the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development (CEECD) and the Strategic Knowledge Cluster on Early Child Development (SKC-ECD) is a valuable resource for non-profit member, service planners, policy makers and parents who want a comprehensive, reliable and easy-to-use reference tool devoted to promoting accessibility and knowledge transfer of the best knowledge on early childhood development. Access it [here](#).

You can still add your voice to NACY's national network of organizations by visiting nacy.ca and registering today.

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