

If you missed our November newsletter, you can access it [here](#).

# NACY ANEJ

National Alliance for  
Children and Youth

L'alliance nationale pour  
l'enfance et la jeunesse

## THE LAWSON FOUNDATION

It has been a busy couple of months for members of NACY. In November, NACY representatives were invited to attend the Lawson Foundation's pan-Canadian dialogue on early child development. The goal of this event was to create a space to engage in conversation and collective reflection, make new connections, and look at ways of working together. NACY was included in a group of 60 organizations invited to participate.

This was the first of three important meetings; the next was an invitation to meet with Policy Advisors from Minister Duclos' Office. This meeting was perfectly timed; the Ministry of Families, Children and Social Development has vowed to mandate the establishment of a child care framework: In a recent interview, Social Development Minister Jean-Yves Duclos told the Canadian Press that the Liberals plan to make a long-term funding commitment in the 2017 budget to help provinces expand their child care systems: "We're hearing - from stakeholders, from families, from communities - how important it is to work on a system that over time will build the inclusivity, the affordability, and the accessibility of child care services allowing for the importance of quality." With the Minister's Advisors, NACY discussed several ways our organization could provide support for their efforts and came to understand what their priorities were in the immediate future. Following that initial meeting, NACY was invited to participate in a roundtable consultation on early learning and child care with the Minister.

## CHILDREN FIRST CANADA

Board members also met with Sara Austin, CEO of Children First Canada. Children First is getting recognition as a trailblazer in the non-profit sector. Their memorable catch phrase, "the kids are not alright," has gained traction, forcing Canadians to acknowledge the murky truth that Canada is far from an ideal country for kids to grow up in. In their latest effort, Children First's Youth Ambassadors submitted recommendations to the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Bill Morneau, through the Student Budget Consultation process. They called for urgent government action in producing plans for poverty reduction strategy, concussion strategy, and the Health Accord. The submission can be read [here](#). NACY sees a natural alignment with the goals of Children First Canada. As such, we will continue to support and partner these initiatives. Their next major event is at the Economic Club in Ottawa on February 23rd, 2017. In addition, NACY has been invited to take part in planning for the national summit for Canada's children in the spring of 2017.

NACY would like to introduce our new National Communications Manager, Adnela Fejzulovic. Adnela is an Honours Bachelor of Arts graduate from McMaster University. She is in her final stretch at George Brown College with a post-graduate certification in Developmental Editing pending early 2017. Adnela has worked as a writing consultant, which has exposed her to wide variety of subject matter. As the communications lead, she is finding the charitable sector to be a fruitful learning environment, enjoying the opportunity to be part of something bigger within life's intersections of steadfast social complexities. If you would like to contact Adnela, please forward any information to [info@nacy.ca](mailto:info@nacy.ca).



NACY sent out a survey to gather input from its members a short time ago. Among many other findings, the survey showed members saw the value in partnering with other national partners,

with NACY acting as a representative at planning tables, mediating and strengthening capacity of reaching individual and collective goals for each member organization. Respondents placed emphasis on seeing future communications transformations, funding inclusions and wider transparency in the sector. This information will help NACY set priorities in providing actions, outcomes and impacts that meet these needs in the future. A [full summary](#) of the survey is available, along with an [excel version](#) of the results.

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## News in the Sector

A new survey of more than 3,000 parents done by Probe Research for the Manitoba Child Care Association has seen an overwhelming consensus among parents for a universal child care system where there are enough affordable, accessible licensed spaces for every child. The Manitoba government has been petitioned with the report as of December; the story can be followed in this [editorial](#).

Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk has found that youth mental-health agencies have been overwhelmed by a 50 per cent spike in hospitalization cases since 2009 and the government has not analyzed the reasons behind the increase or taken steps to address it. Concerningly, young people across the province are waiting anywhere from three months to a year and half for urgent mental health care. The [full report](#) is available.

A tribunal case opened ten years ago, by Cindy Blackstock, head of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, is being revisited. Though the Liberal government supported the motion to inject \$155 million into the child welfare system in October, and Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett appointed a new special representative on child welfare, the unsatisfactory treatment of First Nations children is still facing heavy scrutiny. The Canadian federal government is to appear before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in Washington to defend the current state of the child welfare system. The hearing is available via [webcast](#); the outcome will be determined at a later date.

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## Policy Developments

Promises of groundbreaking changes to Ontario's child protection law are on the horizon. Minister of Children and Youth Services, Michael Coteau, is looking to revise the current Child and Family Services Act in hopes of more efficiently resolving intervention in crisis situations. If the bill passes, changes will be seen in the area of protection, strengthening the focus in early family intervention, introducing cultural appropriations to the child welfare system and improving oversight of child service providers, as well as allowing children a say over policy decisions related to their welfare. An outline of the bill is available [here](#).

Making rounds in media and news coverage this month is the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' report. It snapshots the median parental child care fees in Canada's biggest 28 cities for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. The study confirms that rates have skyrocketed. Policy analysts are latching on to this information, with one group turning to Prince Edward Island as a model for Canadian daycare systems. Analysis of monthly daycare costs shows that P.E.I. parents pay some of the lowest fees in the country. The crisis has led to media interest in better ways to support childcare for families and affordable costs for services that move the way of Quebec, Manitoba and P.E.I. See the report [here](#).



## Funding Announcements

Registered non-profit organizations, businesses, First Nation organizations, local or regional governmental organizations with an idea that addresses community priorities and encourages community development activities can apply for up to \$5,000 through the Columbia Basin Trust program. See the guidelines and application [here](#).

The Canadian Women's Foundation is accepting proposals for its 2017-2018 Annual Violence Prevention Grants. Approximately 30 grants will be selected to a maximum of \$20,000 each. If your organization and work fits the selection criteria, you may apply for additional funding of up to \$3,000 to assist with access costs. The submission deadline is February 6, 2017. See the [grant guidelines](#).

Ontario is now accepting applications for the Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund, which supports local, regional and provincial organizations that offer programs and services to keep Ontarians active in sport, recreation and physical activity. [Applications](#) are being accepted until February 1, 2017.

LAB B, Ryerson and Enactus bring you ACTIVATE, a hackathon event January 21st, 2017 from 10 am - 5pm EST with \$5000 rewards for entrepreneurs focused on starting companies that have both social impact and profit goals. It is open to individuals 18 to 35 years old. Application info can be viewed [here](#).

The federal government will be investing up to \$780,000 in 4-H Canada to host the 2017 Global 4-H Network Summit. The Global 4-H Network Summit will take place in Ottawa, in July of 2017 and will coincide with the 150th Anniversary of Confederation. With an allocation of over \$200,000 available, applications are open December 01, 2016 - March 01, 2017 to receive between \$500 to \$2500 dollars to host a 4-H youth led community celebration. [Apply](#) now.

## Events and Opportunities

The Council on Youth Opportunities is a 25-member group of youth (ages 16 to 25), young professionals and leaders. The council gives advice to the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Children and Youth Services on issues affecting youth. Interested individuals can apply [here](#) all year round.

Action Schools! BC program, viaSport is building a team of Physical Literacy Mentors to implement the physical literacy mentorship program created to provide targeted support for elementary school teachers delivering physical and health education curriculum. Registration opens January 2017 and our members can [apply online](#).

Imagine Canada is inviting non-profit leaders and subject matter experts to contribute to their site as guest writers. Submission process and editorial guidelines are available on their [blog](#).

The CYCC Network would like to draw attention to their next Wisdom2Action event on March 24,

2017 in Ottawa. "From Trauma to Resilience" will be a community knowledge sharing event on promising practices regarding response to and prevention of sexual violence. Register [here](#).

A reminder that the annual Children the Heart of the Matter Conference is coming up on February 17-18, 2017 in Surrey, BC. A great lineup of keynote speakers and workshop presenters is on the agenda. You can register [here](#).

The Canadian Conference on Promoting Healthy Relationships for Youths: Breaking Down the Silos in Addressing Mental Health & Violence will be February 15th-17th in London, Ontario. [Registration](#) is open now.

## Information Docket

The government of Ontario has opened a Consultation on Early Years and Child Care Strategy. Feedback will inform the government on what is important to families when it comes to the early years and child care system. Ideas on how to improve access, parental choice and flexibility, affordability and quality are appreciated. The consultation will close January 15th, 2017. Share your feedback [here](#).

## Training and Workshops

The Crisis and Trauma Resource Institute is offering a webinar that focuses on the practical and professional strategies for working with youth struggling against complex mental health issues involving self-harm. It can be viewed [here](#).

If NACY members could not make it to the Maytree Foundation's 100th Five Good Ideas session, a special panel discussing how sector leaders produce powerful yet practical ideas on key management issues facing board and staff members of non-profit organizations, a [video](#) of the discussion is available.



## Community Resources

BC Council of Families has added new titles from their partner Odin Books on topics ranging from disciplining children to relationship skills for teens to suicide, as well as books on gender and LGBTQ issues for children. Browse their selections [here](#).

## December Spotlight

December 13th marks the 25th anniversary of Canada's ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most universally accepted human rights apparatus in history. The convention approaches a spectrum of children's rights including standards of living, education, health, protection from violence and exploitation and measures necessary to protect children from harm. This anniversary recalls high demand for Canada to more effectively promote the rights of children and youth across all areas in Canada. This [news bulletin](#) looks at UNICEF's past involvement and future actions we can take to make improvements.

This month Campaign 2000 released its 2016 annual Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Canada; findings have media outlets stirring. The organization started issuing reports after the House of Commons voted unanimously in 1989 to end child poverty by the year 2000. The report clarifies parliamentarians have not succeeded in their goals: one in five Canadian children lives in poverty. Read [the report](#) now.

First Call has also released its 2016 Child Poverty Report Card. The compilation highlights growing income inequality among BC families; the BC's child poverty rate is higher than the Canadian average of 18.5%, and represents 163,260 children, larger than the population of Abbotsford, the province's fourth largest city. The conclusion indicates a genuine failure to properly support youth against homelessness. Read the full report [here](#).

## NACY's Recommended Reads

Released at the end 2016, Food Bank Canada's comprehensive report on hunger and food bank

use in Canada includes detailed national and provincial findings, community profiles and recommendations for change. It is estimated that families could pay up to \$420 more for food in 2017. Learn more about the issues by downloading the [complete report](#).

Lisa Lalonde's "On the Mend: Putting Spark Back Into the Government-Charitable Relationship Sector" assesses the government and the not-for-profit sector following the 2015 federal election and looks at charities ready to move beyond the chill. It can be [read online](#).

**NACY wishes you a happy and healthy holiday season and a wonderful new year ahead!  
You will hear from us again in January.**

You can still add your voice to NACY's national network of organizations by visiting [nacy.ca](http://nacy.ca) and registering today.

National Alliance of Children and Youth | [info@nacy.ca](mailto:info@nacy.ca) | [www.nacy.ca](http://www.nacy.ca)

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