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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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March Spotlight

POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY



#ReducePoverty

Canada 

In a recent survey of NACY members, a clear priority was identified to explore partnerships within the sector, with funders, with government. To that end, this article places a strong emphasis on partnership and engagement between non-governmental organizations and what impact our facilitation has in exploring unique characteristics and perspectives of how poverty is experienced and finding local solutions that can aid the development of poverty reduction strategies. We encourage you to be part of this important work by joining Minister Duclos and his team in constructing a narrative. Here are some things to consider:

Join the Discussion - Creating a Poverty Reduction Strategy

Has poverty affected you or someone you know? Maybe a friend, a neighbour, a colleague or a family member?

The Government of Canada is engaging Canadians on its development of a Poverty Reduction

Strategy-one that creates a more inclusive middle class and is accessible to those who wish to join it.

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, and his department recently launched two initiatives to support the Strategy:

1) **Ministerial advisory committee on poverty**

The Government of Canada is looking for Canadians who have lived in poverty and experts in poverty reduction from the fields of academia, service delivery, business and international expertise.

Canadians can [apply](#) to be part of the advisory committee on poverty before March 27, 2017.

2) **National consultation**

The Government of Canada has launched an online and in-person consultation process to engage with Canadians on key issues related to poverty.

You can share your feedback by:

- taking part in the online [discussion forum](#);
- filling out a [survey](#);
- posting a photo, video or written story to the [Share Your Stories](#) page;
- talking about how you're contributing to the discussion using #ReducePoverty on Twitter ([@SocDevSoc](#)) and Instagram ([@esdc-edsc](#)); and
- encouraging your friends to get involved!

The Government of Canada also developed a [toolkit](#) to host your own event in your school, workplace or community to help #ReducePoverty in Canada. Items in the toolkit include discussion guides, templates, images and other tools to help you collect and submit feedback.

All Canadians are invited to participate in the [online consultation](#) that will run from February to June 2017.

Policy Developments

Attention NACY members: Unfortunately, an article regarding Bill S-206 and physical punishment of children and youth was posted in error. These are certainly not the views of NACY. We apologize for any miscommunication this may have caused. A repeal of Bill S-206 would be a significant step toward implementation of Article 19 in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which articulates children's right to be free from all forms of violence. For a fuller understanding of why this development is important for children and children's rights in Canada, please read the Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth, developed and facilitated by the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO). This document was endorsed by 138 Canadian organizations concerned with the well-being of children and youth and, by invitation, a number of distinguished Canadians. The statement contains extensive research of the developmental outcomes associated with the use of physical punishment on children and youth. It provides an overview on the current law on physical punishment in Canada and its implication in relation to human rights, and delivers public awareness strategies to inform all Canadians about the risks associated with physical punishment. We invite you to read it [here](#).

Canada is soon receiving the 2017 Federal Budget plan, and there is anticipation regarding the future impact on children, families and youth. The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) is urging the federal government to table a budget that makes good on its promises to reduce income inequality and drive inclusive growth. The CCPA has released the *Alternative Federal Budget 2017: High Stakes, Clear Choices*, which works as an incubator for progressive policy ideas, building and refining them until they are ready for implementation. Read the report [here](#).



News in the Sector

Campaign 2000 has published a new report that identifies lack of state-of-the-art estimates as the missing link for social policies and programs meant to support low income and middle class families. "Right now, we don't have official estimates of what it costs to raise children," says Anita Khanna, Campaign 2000's National Coordinator. "Calculating the real cost of raising children is central to crafting evidence-based child poverty reduction policies that support the healthy development of children. With federal consultations for the Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy underway for the first time in Canada's history, it is time to fill this gap in public knowledge. We must ensure the realities of families' real-time expenses, such as food, housing, childcare, transit, schools fees and even saving for post-secondary education, inform policy directions and to help level the uneven playing field for families." To access the full report, click [here](#) or read the [infographic summary](#).

The Canadian Human Rights Commission has found that persons with mental and physical disabilities in Canada are not receiving the quality education they need. In the new report entitled "Left Out: The Treatment of Persons with Disabilities in Canada's Education System," the Commission highlights barriers and key issues facing children with disabilities, including a lack of disability accommodation and support, a lack of services and funding, as well as widespread bullying and exclusion, especially for young minorities in remote areas or on First Nations reserves. The report seeks to push forward the sector's work in implementing Canada's strategy for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Download the [PDF](#).



Funding Announcements

Bell has launched its annual \$1-million Bell Let's Talk Community Fund for 2017. Registered charities are invited to apply for a grant up to \$25,000 to help fund local mental health programs. All submitted applications are reviewed by a committee of mental health experts from across Canada. The 2017 application period runs until March 31st. [Apply](#) now.

Do you have an idea related to the mental health and well-being of young people? The Dare to Dream Program will support young people with great projects designed to make things better for youth. Recipients will receive up to \$5,000 to put into action projects that support mental health and wellness in schools and communities across Ontario. The deadline is March 31st, 2017. Find out [more](#).

The Canada Post Community Foundation for Children is accepting applications for 2017 grants. More than \$1 million is available for charities, school programs and other groups serving the needs of young people. Applications will be available between March 1 and April 5, and are open to national and grassroots organizations across the country. The deadline to receive applications is April 5, 2017. Apply for the grant [here](#).

The Toronto Foundation's Vital Youth grant recipients increase access to high-quality recreation activities for youth. This grant stream supports programming that helps youth build useful skills and connect to their communities through grants of up to \$15,000. The deadline to apply is April 12th, 2017. Please review the grant guidelines by [clicking here](#). To download the application, [click here](#).

The Inspirit Foundation is offering \$10,000 in one-time grants for projects that implement creative strategies to open minds and shift attitudes that perpetuate prejudice and exclusion based on ethnicity, race or religion. Through the grants, Inspirit Foundation is particularly interested in supporting the development of effective, connected and influential young change leaders. The deadline to apply is April 18, 2017. See the [guidelines](#) for the application process.



Events and Opportunities

On March 27th, the CYCC Network will be hosting another Wisdom2Action event titled Best Practices to Engage Youth in Services to Prevent and Treat Substance Use. This event will bring together a diverse group of people who are involved in preventing substance use and supporting interventions for young people who experience it. It is open to community service providers, researchers, educators, government agencies, youth and others who work with young people in this quickly changing field of practice. [Register](#) now.



The BCPRC Speaker Series: Value BC: Prosperity for All is taking place March 29th in Vancouver, BC. Join a panel discussion with Tamara Vrooman, president and CEO of Vancity Credit Union, Janet Austin, CEO of YWCA Metro Vancouver, and Anita Huberman, CEO of the Surrey Board of Trade, as they discuss how we can turn the tide on increasing inequality in BC and ensure that all British Columbians share the prosperity in our province. The event is sponsored and represented by The BC Alliance on Mental Health/Illness and Addictions, the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition, Living Wage for Families Campaign, the Single Mothers' Alliance BC, and many others. For more information and instructions on how to register, click [here](#).



Take advantage of early bird rates offered by the Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs (FRP Canada) before their biennial national conference takes place this September 25th-27th 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](#).

On April 6th, the Sandbox Project will host the Sandbox Summit, an interactive event that will bring together stakeholders from all corners of Canadian child and youth health and wellbeing including researchers, practitioners, policy makers, charities, corporate Canada, families and young people. Together, participants will identify our sector's most pressing challenges and find new and innovative ways to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for Canada's young people. Register [here](#).

The Children and Nature Network is holding an international conference on April 18th-21st in Vancouver, BC, for inspiring keynotes, expertly-curated workshops, field trips and action labs

designed to support and advance the work you do to connect children, families and communities to nature. Find out [more](#).

Information Docket

Recognizing Ontario's nonprofit workers' difficult retirement plans in the context of an increasingly precarious labour market and the disappearance of workplace pension plans, the Ontario Nonprofit Network set its Task Force to develop recommendations on the design of a sector-wide pension plan for Ontario's nonprofits and charities. With the objective of making income security a reality for the nonprofit sector, the Task Force examined the impact of the proposed Ontario Retirement Pension Plan (ORPP) and then the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) enhancement when the ORPP was shelved.

The Task Force worked with a post-retirement income adequacy threshold of 70 percent of pre-retirement earnings (taking into account CPP and public programs). The average worker will receive only 44 percent of pre-retirement earnings from public programs even after the CPP enhancement takes full effect. They refined that mandate to provide a framework for a pension plan that is affordable for workers and nonprofits and that shares risks carefully, provides adequate benefits, and is easy to administer. Supporters of this project are referring to it as the "Decent Work" movement. View the roadmap to this design in their [executive summary](#). A [webinar](#) will also be held April 5th for those interested in learning more.

Training and Workshops

The Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks is looking for impactful adult alumni to become allies to youth in care from ages 25 and older. To find out more, contact the toll free number 1-800-565-8055 or visit the [website](#).

Children's Mental Health Ontario (CMHO) would like you to mark your calendars for Children's Mental Health Week, which is taking place May 1-7, 2017. During this week, CMHO will provide a [list of activities](#), contests, and an itinerary of ways for you to engage in order to highlight the importance of a healthy and well-functioning community-based children's mental health sector.



Community Resources



Dad Central Ontario is conducting a survey for fathers designed to discover what the interests and needs are of dads in our community. This information will help to make sure that programs, services and supports are able to meet the interests and needs of fathers, as well as any other parent or caregiver. The [survey](#) will take you 5 minutes to complete and offers a chance to win one of three \$50 gift cards.

The \$10aDay campaign has released an updated fact sheet highlighting the relationship between the \$10aDay Child Care Plan and a poverty reduction strategy for BC. The fact sheet has included the latest poverty statistics, child care fees, living wage rates and research into the economic benefits of the \$10aDay Plan. [Download](#) the fact sheet and sign the petition [here](#).

NACY's Recommended Reads

We encourage you to read [Poverty in Cranbrook: A Story of Social Potholes](#) by [Amanda Beddome](#). This story is a component of a larger initiative dedicated to forming a Cranbrook Poverty Reduction Committee. The Social Planning Society has taken some steps towards identifying indicators that will support the development and implementation of appropriate solutions in our communities. A report is currently being developed to identify a clear picture of how poverty affects individuals, families, youth, seniors, Indigenous peoples, municipal offices and businesses in our entire community. This type of planning should inspire nonprofit organizations to take the same steps in BC and other places in Canada.



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

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