# Outdoor Play in Canada: 2021 State of the Sector Report Stakeholder Survey

You are being invited to complete an anonymous survey on the major priorities and actions for the Canadian outdoor play sector (e.g., outdoor play oriented education, research, policy, organizations, community & youth programs) moving forward over the next five years.

This survey is being done as part of a larger Outdoor Play in Canada State of the Sector Report, which will serve as an account of what has happened within the outdoor play sector over the past six years, where we are now, and where we need to go from here. The Report will serve to bring the many Canadian outdoor play-oriented groups together to create a sense of 'community', provide a common vision for the sector to succeed over the next five years, and identify priorities for action.

As part of the process of identifying priorities for action, Outdoor Play Canada hosted a series of online consultation meetings with individuals from across Canada from government, policy, not-for-profit and for-profit organizations, education, and research. During these meetings we asked participants to identify what they felt were the major priorities for the sector and what actions need to be taken to move these priorities forward. Common priorities and actions were identified, refined, and voted on. We are now reaching out to our wider networks for input on these priorities and actions so that this report is truly representative of the sector. We are seeking your input because we want to know if you agree with these priorities and actions, if you have suggested edits/changes, and what we may still be missing.

Taking part in this survey is voluntary. You are free to withdraw from the survey at any time and there will be no penalty to you. We expect to invite approximately 2000 individuals to participate.

Participants will be asked to complete an anonymous online survey that should take no longer than 30 minutes to complete.

Questions in the survey will include nine priorities and their related actions, including:

Promote the Health, Wellbeing, and Developmental Benefits of Outdoor Play

Promote, Protect, and Preserve Outdoor Play Environments

Advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) in Outdoor Play

Ensure that Outdoor Play Initiatives Represent the Diverse Cultures, Languages, and

Perspectives of Indigenous Peoples of North America

Research and Support Data Collection on Outdoor Play

Reform the Balance of Benefit and Risk in Outdoor Play OR Reframe the Approach to Liability, Safety, and Injury Prevention in Outdoor Play (we will ask for your input on title preference for this priority)

Leverage Engagement Opportunities with the Outdoors During and After COVID-19 Increase and Improve Professional Development Opportunities in Outdoor Play Expand and Enable Cross-Sectoral Connections/Collaborations

present the survey results, we will not use any identifying information. We will keep all survey data on password-protected computers at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) Research Institute. Following completion of the survey the data will be kept for 7 years after the last publication of this survey. They will then be destroyed. Data collected for this research may be used in future related research projects that are either an extension of the original project or in the same general area of research. Researchers outside of this specific study may request access to the data for new research purposes. Participants will not be asked to provide additional informed consent for the use of anonymous data for future research. You may or may not directly benefit from the survey. However, your input and perspective would be of tremendous value to us. You may choose not to answer a question. If you would like to be informed of the results of this survey, please contact Dr. Louise de Lannoy by email (Idelannoy@cheo.on.ca).

Your consent will be assumed upon completion of the survey.

The CHEO Research Ethics Board (REB) has reviewed and approved this survey.

Please feel free to contact Dr. Louise de Lannoy at <a href="ldelannoy@cheo.on.ca">ldelannoy@cheo.on.ca</a>, if you have any questions about the survey.

Your assistance with this survey is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your time and consideration.

#### Eligibility

1.	Are you 12 years of age or older?
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	No
E	ligibility part 2
2.	Do you live in Canada?
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	No

Part 1:
Priorities
and Actions
(not in
order of
importance)

The following is a list of priorities identified for the outdoor play sector over the next five years, and actions necessary to move these priorities forward. All priorities have been written in action-oriented language (e.g., Promote, Advocate for). We recognize that many of these priorities overlap with each other and have overlapping actions. As a result, some action items have been repeated across priorities, and some priorities are referenced in the action items of other priorities. For example, COVID-19 and outdoor play has been identified as a priority and is also referenced within the action items for the priority 'Promote the Health, Wellbeing, and Development Benefits of Outdoor Play'.

We have included a brief description of the rationale for each priority. Please indicate your level of agreement for each priority and include any additional comments in the comment boxes.

### Please provide your input below. This questionnaire should take about 20-30 minutes to complete.

Please answer the questions as accurately as possible to the best of your knowledge. Your answers will be anonymous and kept confidential. Thank you for your time!

#### Priority: Promote the Health, Wellbeing, and Developmental Benefits of Outdoor Play

Outdoor play is important for the physical, mental, emotional, and social development of children and health and wellbeing of people of all ages. This priority is intended to recognize all these benefits, with specific actions on how this information may be promoted across sectors.

3. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following priority: Promote the Health, Wellbeing, and Developmental Benefits of Outdoor Play

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly agree						Strongly disagree

4. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following actions associated with the priority: Promote the Health, Wellbeing, and Developmental Benefits of Outdoor Play

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Prioritize outdoor play as an ongoing support for Canadians during, and in the eventual recovery from, the COVID-19 pandemic.					
Disseminate, mobilize, and communicate the benefits of outdoor play.					
Engage in cross-sectoral connections and collaborations to promote the benefits of outdoor play.					
Structure outdoor play as a proactive, as opposed to a reactive, support. Frame outdoor play as supportive/enabling and give stakeholders a sense of how important and influential outdoor play can be.					
Support and promote existing campaigns that focus on the benefits of outdoor play such as Take Me Outside Day; International Society for Physical Activity and Health (ISPAH)'s Eight Investments that Work for Physical Activity; the World Health Organization's Global Action Plan on Physical Activity 2018-2030.					
Recognize inequities in the quality of experiences when discussing the benefits of outdoor play; for example, outdoor play in concrete spaces, near highways is not the same as in parks with trees.					

Normalize outdoor play as a default behaviour for all Canadians.			
Identify champions at local, regional, and national levels.			

#### Priority: Promote, Protect, and Preserve Outdoor Play Environments

This priority is intended to be inclusive of all outdoor spaces in which outdoor play may occur; built environments (e.g., playgrounds, streets) and natural spaces that already exist and do not need to be built. The many factors associated with outdoor spaces (geographical, cultural, social, ecological) and differences between urban and rural, built cities and natural environments, are important considerations for this priority and its associated actions.

5. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following priority: Promote, Protect, and Preserve Outdoor Play Environments

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly agree						Strongly disagree

6. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following actions associated with the priority: Promote, Protect, and Preserve Outdoor Play Environments

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Promote play declarations to raise awareness of the need for policies and strategies that provide more access to, and social support for, quality play in local neighborhoods.					
Establish policies that ensure access to natural/play areas close to where people live, and that safe active transportation routes that have come about during COVID-19 are conserved. Resilient cities have built environments that make it easy to access outdoor play.					
Promote spatial justice: the fair and equitable distribution of, and access to, outdoor space.					
Conduct research on traffic speed, safety, and risk reduction and disseminate these findings to policy makers and municipal planners.					
Adopt a broader view on play environments (e.g., streets, sidewalks) to fuel research that will differentiate outdoor play patterns and create unique measurement tools and resources. Disseminate research findings to policy makers and municipal planners.					
Focus on healthy communities and outdoor play; this has been recognized as a research funding priority within the Canadian Institutes for Health Research.					

Focus on place-based outdoor play.			
Develop a parent awareness campaign and youth engagement campaign to promote outdoor play education within communities.			
Make a connection between active transportation and outdoor play within national active transportation strategies currently being developed.			
Identify champions to promote this priority and achieve these actions.			
Include children and youth in decision-making.			
Reframe what is considered a quality outdoor play environment; expand this to include street play, forest play, and yard play.			
Promote the connection of the outdoor environment with food security, home and community gardens, and protection of native plant species.			

#### Priority: Advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) in Outdoor Play

This priority will use and build upon the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which recognizes: 'the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts' and 'shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational, and leisure activity' (<a href="https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention/convention-text">https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention/convention-text</a>). This is both a stand-alone priority and one that is embedded throughout all priorities. This priority encompasses accessibility, where accessibility is found throughout the action items below.

7. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following priority: Advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) in Outdoor Play

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly agree						Strongly disagree

8. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following actions associated with the priority: Advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) in Outdoor Play

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Apply an EDI lens to every priority.					
Include all layers of accessibility when considering this priority, including physical, visual, sensory, intellectual disabilities and accessibility among marginalized communities.					
Ensure as many diverse groups are at the table as possible, including Indigenous people and children and youth					
Adopt the broadest definition of EDI incorporating the highest level of inclusion possible in terms of gender, culture, and geographical, social, physical, and spiritual factors. Have further discussions to identify other subgroups that may fall under this priority and may feel excluded or marginalized.					
Advocate for, and preserve, access to sufficient, accessible and high-quality space for outdoor play.					
Consider the role of the built environment in promoting EDI.					
Develop inclusive Play Declarations across multiple levels of government in Canada. Ensure that governments promote and acknowledge that outdoor play is a right in all communities. Use the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as an accountability tool to hold our governments accountable,					

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	similar to what was done in Sweden where the Right to Play was adopted into law in 2020.					
	Consider newcomer experiences and perspectives on play to inform this priority.					
	Identify champions to promote this priority and achieve these actions.					
Lang This is was a based	rity: Ensure that Outdoor Play Init guages, and Perspectives of Indig s both a stand-alone priority and one that is o greed upon by those that identify as Indigen- on language used in the Truth and Reconcil (/trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls_to_Action_English2	enous Pec embedded thr ous within the iation Commi	ples of No oughout all p State of the	orth Ame riorities. The Sector Cons	r <b>ica</b> e phrasing of sultation grou	this priority

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly agree						Strongly disagree

10. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following actions associated with the priority: Ensure that Outdoor Play Initiatives Represent the Diverse Cultures, Languages, and Perspectives of Indigenous Peoples of North America

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Go to Indigenous communities and ask residents to reflect on how to involve Elders. This is already happening at the Aboriginal Head Start Urban and Northern Initiative and needs to continue.					
Weave in Indigenous worldviews into the overall perspective on outdoor play and land-based play.					
Partner with Indigenous communities and leaders to recognize practices and methods that may be beneficial for educational research, dissemination, and mobilization.					
Strengthen the connection between outdoor play, K-12 curriculum, EDI, and First People's Principles.					
Promote learning on how to engage Indigenous partners (e.g., relationship-building).					
Identify champions to promote this priority and achieve these actions.					

#### Priority: Research and Support Data Collection on Outdoor Play

This priority focuses on gaps in knowledge related to outdoor play, and what research and data collection efforts are needed to address those gaps. It was recognized that research and knowledge on outdoor play needs to be made accessible to governments, policy makers, educators, community organizations and the private sector; to address this we have woven knowledge translation and mobilization efforts into the action items here and within other priorities where relevant.

11.	Please indicate your level of agreement with the following priority: Research and
	Support Data Collection on Outdoor Play

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly agree						Strongly disagree

12. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following actions associated with the priority: Research and Support Data Collection on Outdoor Play

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Create valid and reliable outdoor play measurement tools and resources. Use these tools to study the characteristics of outdoor play.					
Promote surveillance data on outdoor play that adopts an EDI lens.					
Review the literature on best practices for facilitating and promoting outdoor play.					
Include early childhood education and K-12 school-based populations in research efforts. Allow school boards to have ongoing access to this information.					
Translate research to practice. Focus on knowledge translation, dissemination, mobilization, and advocacy of findings.					
Consider ways to package data and develop messages and materials for multiple audiences (e.g., parents, care-providers, insurers, schools, municipalities, and recreation staff).					
Develop strategies to acquire resources and funding for outdoor play research.					
Dedicate funds to create a public campaign/initiative to promote and encourage outdoor play.					

5/21/2021

# the Approach to Liability, Safety, and Injury Prevention in Outdoor Play

For this priority, we did not achieve consensus with the Consultation Group on what the final version of the priority should be. There was general consensus that liability and safety in outdoor play was already a prevalent topic and that a priority moving forward should be the reframing of the way in which liability and safety is applied to outdoor play opportunities. In other words, the way in which we provide outdoor play needs to be recalibrated so that there is a better balance between protecting against injury and promoting outdoor play.

13.	Please indicate which of the following two options you prefer as a priority title:
	Mark only one oval.
	Reform the Balance of Benefit and Risk in Outdoor Play
	Reframe the Approach to Liability, Safety, and Injury Prevention in Outdoor Play
	Other:

14. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following actions associated with the priority: Reform the Balance of Benefit and Risk in Outdoor Play OR Reframe the Approach to Liability, Safety, and Injury Prevention in Outdoor Play

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Collaborate more with insurance agencies, the Canadian Standards Association, and licensing officers and provide education on the value of outdoor play opportunities for children, or the cost of not having play opportunities (i.e., provide cost/benefit analyses).					
Challenge unjustifiably restrictive outdoor play policies, standards, guidelines, and practices.					
Promote/develop knowledge mobilization around success items/stories that may set precedent; demonstrate/highlight successful past practices of managing risk in outdoor play.					
Increase advocacy and awareness on the benefits of risky play. Ensure that it is common knowledge that risk is healthy, children need risk, and that outdoor play can be risky and that is a good thing.					
Increase skills and knowledge in risk management. Ensure that risk assessment documents are userfriendly.					
Ensure "benefit" does not get lost in a risk-centric assessment.					
Identify champions to promote this priority and achieve these					

actions.

# Priority: Leverage Engagement Opportunities with the Outdoors During and After COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a rediscovery of the outdoors for physical and mental health, for enjoyment, fun, relaxation, and for a way to feel a sense of normalcy in this strange time. This rediscovery and renewed appreciation of the outdoors has great potential to be an accelerator for the above outdoor play priorities. Therefore, while this is a stand-alone priority, considerations related to COVID-19 are found in the action lists of other priorities.

15. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following priority: Leverage Engagement Opportunities with the Outdoors During and After COVID-19

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly agree						Strongly disagree

16. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following actions associated with the priority: Leverage Engagement Opportunities with the Outdoors During and After COVID-19

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Make outdoor play a core health promotion recovery strategy for Canadians.					
Leverage the current opportunity of the pandemic to promote the importance of outdoor play and recognition of the advantages it can bring such as funding opportunities.					
Preserve neighbourhood changes that have encouraged and facilitated spontaneous outdoor play (e.g., open streets, use of empty green space).					
Drive engagement across all age groups by connecting/collaborating with local organizations.					
Consider how the 'COVID-19' lens can inform an outdoor play strategy moving forward.					
Promote more neighbourhood planning to support communities in the event of future health crises.					
Identify champions to promote this priority and achieve these actions.					

# Priority: Increase and Improve Professional Development Opportunities in Outdoor Play

There is a recognized need to increase and improve professional development opportunities in outdoor play. This includes opportunities for educators (e.g., early childhood educators, elementary and secondary school educators) but also for those across all sectors involved in outdoor play (parents, coaches, students). Professional development opportunities are needed to help shift mindsets and provide the tools to advocate for and promote outdoor play. This priority is intended to encapsulate the broad need for training across sectors.

17.	Please indicate your level of agreement with the following priority: Increase and
	Improve Professional Development Opportunities in Outdoor Play

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly agree						Strongly disagree

18. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following actions associated with the priority: Increase and Improve Professional Development Opportunities in Outdoor Play

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	
Invest in long-term programming for educators that moves beyond one-time webinar/learning to a long-term learning process. This could include immersive (I.e., outdoors) full-term courses and certifications in outdoor play pedagogy that is accessible across a range of outdoor literacy levels, as well as on-going peer mentorship opportunities.						
Make outdoor play programming available to parents, volunteer coaches, and students in other post-secondary programs.						
Work with staff onsite to elevate authentic voices. For example, look to educators that have a background in outdoor play pedagogy as sources of information on how to bring play/teaching outdoors and not repeat efforts already being made.						
Develop resources for educators to help them advocate and talk about outdoor play/risk.						
Work with preservice colleges to make sure outdoor play training is available.						
Share resources and work together with regulatory bodies to validate early childhood programs.						
Promote						

coordination/collaboration between organizations, school boards, and childcare centres to achieve actual change.			
Work with college educators to support them in going to early childhood education centres to work with children.			
Promote and advocate for licensing regulations that support quality outdoor play spaces.			
Include children's and youth's voices in designing outdoor play pedagogy.			
Create child-friendly measurement tools (both qualitative and quantitative) and resources to document the outdoor learning process and provide a means for stakeholders to support further research, which may then in turn influence education (i.e., promote knowledge translation of measurement tools). Ensure that children's and youth's voices are included in this process.			
Develop mentorship positions at the school district level to coordinate information coming from the province that is then passed on to teachers.			
Identify champions to promote this priority.			

#### Priority: Expand and Enable Cross-Sectoral Connections/Collaborations

Outdoor play initiatives, programs, and projects are found across many sectors. In order to move the above outdoor play priorities forward, we need to promote connections and collaborations across sectors so that we work together, learn from each other, and amplify each other's work.

19. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following priority: Expand and Enable Cross-Sectoral Connections/Collaborations

	1	2	3	4	5	
Strongly agree						Strongly disagree

20. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following actions associated with the priority: Expand and Enable Cross-Sectoral Connections/Collaborations

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Promote connections/collaborations across sectors, levels of government, communities, and across the ages.					
Coordinate gatherings and working groups to bring key influencers and stakeholders together to advance programmatic and built environment work.					
Identify stakeholders that may help fuel the creation of measurement tools, resources, and identification of barriers and enablers of outdoor play distribution and development.					
Engage champions at different levels – on the ground and in higher-up leadership positions, and identify and invite-in those not at the table.					
Develop mentoring opportunities across all sectors, to see other people engaged in outdoor play that 'look like me'.					
Promote, highlight, and recognize individuals who do great work in outdoor play! Celebrate them, promote their social media efforts, and make it EASY to learn how to be an outdoor play advocate! Support those who are already doing this work in motivating others!					

	Additional Comments?
Pa	rt 2: Demographics
22.	Please indicate your sector of work/study (select all that apply):
	Check all that apply.
	Research
	Research Education - (pre)school
	Education - (pre)school
	Education – (pre)school Education – post-secondary
	Education – (pre)school Education – post-secondary Play work
	Education – (pre)school  Education – post-secondary  Play work  Policy/Government

If you feel comfortable sharing, please respond to the following with regard to how you self-identify:

23.	B. Age:	
	Mark only one oval.	
	12-24 yrs	
	24-64 yrs	
	> 64yrs	
	Prefer not to say	
24.	1. Gender	
25.	5. (Dis)ability	
26.	5. Culture, race and/or ethnicity:	
27.	7. Region of Canada you live in:	
	Mark only one oval.	
	British Columbia	
	The Prairies: Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba	
	Ontario	
	Quebec	
	Atlantic Provinces: New Brunswick, PEI, Nova Scotia, New	rfoundland & Labrador
	Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut	
	Other:	

28.	Are there any other ways you identify and would like to share?
29.	Are you interested in publicly disclosing your support for the final State of the Sector Report? If interested, we will email you a final version of the Report to review and invite you to respond with your support. Once you email us with your support, your name, along with the names of other supporters, will be housed on the Outdoor Play Canada website. To receive a final version of the Report for review and potential endorsement, please enter your email here (NOTE: entering your email will no longer make your responses above anonymous):
Than	k you for completing the survey!

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