



## Outdoor Play Canada April 2021 Newsletter

*OPC projects and activities encompass all traditional territories of the Indigenous Nations of Turtle Island, within the land we now call Canada.*

### In this issue...

- News: [Nominations are open for the Outdoor Play Canada Awards](#)
- News: [Film Screening: Chasing Childhood](#)
- News: [Next OPC Townhall Meeting is April 16th](#)
- News: [The Walking Curriculum 30-Day Challenge](#)
- News: [Safe Kids Week](#)
- Blog Post: [Rewild Your Kids](#)
- [Join us!](#)

### Nominations are open for the Outdoor Play Canada 2021 Awards!

The Outdoor Play Canada 2021 Awards will be presented at this year's Breath of Fresh Air Summit (date and format TBD). If you know of an individual or organization that has demonstrated exceptional commitment and leadership in the promotion of outdoor play, nominate them for an OPC award! Award categories include: the 2021 OPC Honour Award, Dr. Mariana Brussoni Award, Policy Award, Practice Award, Research Award, and Youth Award. Learn more about the awards in the members-only section of the OPC site.

Nominators must be members of Outdoor Play Canada. If you're not a member and would like to join, complete the membership registration [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact [info@outdoorplaycanada.ca](mailto:info@outdoorplaycanada.ca). **The deadline for nominations is June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021!**

### Film Screening: Chasing Childhood from April 21-25!

Outdoor Play Canada is hosting a screening of the documentary 'Chasing Childhood'! The film explores the changing landscape of childhood and parenting, the disappearance of children's free play, and the efforts of three communities to shift towards a culture that supports free, independent play and the healthy development of children into competent and happy adults. Chasing Childhood has been officially selected by DOC NYC, the Portland International Film Festival, the Sonoma International Film Festival, and the Annapolis Film Festival.

The film screening will be available to all OPC members. [Join us](#) to watch (BYOC... bring your own couch).

## Next OPC Townhall Meeting is Friday, April 16th!

Our next townhall meeting will focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in outdoor play. We will hear from a number of organizations on their efforts to weave EDI into their everyday practice and will invite attendees to share their experiences in going through such practices within their communities.

[Register now](#) for our next townhall on Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 12pm EST.

## The Walking Curriculum 30-Day Challenge!

#imaginED is thrilled to be hosting another 30-day Walking Curriculum challenge! Starting **May 3, 2021**, educators around the globe (preK through high school) will take learning outside for part of the day—rain or shine—for 30 days. This year, we are on a mission to reach 1000 Walking Curriculum Challenge sign-ups, with the goal of donating \$1000 towards the Environmental Youth Alliance. The countdown to the Walking Curriculum challenge begins now, will YOU join the movement to #getoutside?

Check out their event page [here](#) to register.

## Parachute Safe Kids Week 2021 Focuses on Outdoor Play!

Parachute Safe Kids Week will take place **May 30 to June 5, 2021** with the theme #PlaySafeOutdoors. Safe Kids Week is an annual campaign to raise public awareness of child safety issues in Canada, encouraging community involvement as part of the solution. The topic of 2021's Safe Kids Week digital campaign will be outdoor play, encouraging children to #PlaySafeOutdoors and engage in unstructured, active and exciting play, daily. With fewer than five per cent of children (ages 5 to 11) and fewer than one per cent of youth (ages 12 to 17) meeting healthy movement behaviour guidelines during COVID-19 restrictions, outdoor play is more important than ever for kids. Parachute wants kids to #PlaySafeOutdoors to encourage mental, physical, social and emotional well-being.

Visit [parachute.ca/safekidsweek](http://parachute.ca/safekidsweek) to learn more.

## Rewild your kids article published in The Conversation!

Dr. Mark Tremblay, chair of Outdoor Play Canada, together with Dr. John J Reilly from the University of Strathclyde, recently wrote an article for The Conversation on the steady decline in children's outdoor play, how it is in danger of becoming extinct, and what communities and families can do to rewild childhood and ensure that outdoor play is a habit that children for generations to come can enjoy.

[Read more here...](#)

## Join Us!

Join the movement, become an OPC member! Show your support of our effort to promote, protect, and preserve access to play in nature and the outdoors for all people living in Canada.

Membership benefits include being highlighted in this newsletter, discounts at Outdoor Play Canada endorsed events, access to resources to support your outdoor-play related work, as well as a plethora of professional engagement & development opportunities. [Read more...](#)

*We welcome blog posts and summaries of relevant research studies for publication on the [OPC website](#). If you have any items that you think would be of interest to fellow OPC members, please contact [info@outdoorplaycanada.ca](mailto:info@outdoorplaycanada.ca). We respect the amount of unnecessary emails you receive so the plan is for a maximum of one OPC newsletter every other month. Your feedback and comments are always welcome.*