



Outdoor Play Canada August 2021 Newsletter

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

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Lawson Foundation and OPC Report: Funding for Outdoor Play in Canada

The Lawson Foundation and Outdoor Play Canada have released a new report called 'Funding for Outdoor Play in Canada', which identifies funding trends as well as current and potential funders of outdoor play. This report outlines the drivers of funding for outdoor play, the key issue areas that connect outdoor play to existing funding interests, and insights as to how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the funding environment. The report also includes a list of potential funders of outdoor play from foundations, corporations, and governments.

[Learn more and read the full report here.](#)

National Play Day is August 4th!

National Play Day is a day for families, neighbourhoods, and communities to come together to celebrate play. On this year's National Play Day, International Play Association (IPA) Canada is releasing a Play Declaration, designed to support communities across Canada in promoting and protecting children's play.

To learn more about IPA Canada's play declaration, [check out their website.](#)

For playful ideas, check out Sask in Motion and OPC's [Adventure Calendar](#) and [Active Toy Guide!](#)

Nominations are in for the Outdoor Play Canada 2021 Awards!

Thank you to all who submitted a nomination for the Outdoor Play Canada 2021 Awards! Award winners will be presented at this year's Breath of Fresh Air Summit on October 6th-7th (more info to be released soon). 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.

Who have we celebrated in the past? [Check out our 2019 award winners here.](#)

Congrats to Dr. Mariana Brussoni on her new appointment!

Congratulations to OPC Leadership Group member, Dr. Mariana Brussoni, on her new appointment as Director of the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at the University of British Columbia! In her new role, Dr. Brussoni will provide leadership in translating research towards policy, systemic improvements for children and families, mentoring new academics, and of course leveraging HELP's world-class team to advance outdoor play!

[Learn more about the announcement here.](#)

ParticipACTION is 50!

On July 12, 2021, ParticipACTION celebrated 50 years of inspiring and supporting Canadians to get active! As part of the celebration, ParticipACTION invited Canadians to take a trip down memory lane and remember some of their most iconic commercials (BodyBreak anyone?).

[Learn more, including how to watch their 50th birthday video here.](#)

The Conversation: Why the outdoors should be an integral part of every early learning and child care program

Congrats to Christine Alden, PhD candidate at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, who published an article in The Conversation entitled 'Why the outdoors should be an integral part of every early learning and child-care program'. In the article, Ms. Alden outlines the importance of outdoor spaces for learning, the need to consider outdoor spaces as valuable learning environments, important licensing considerations, and opportunities to promote access to local green spaces.

[Learn more and read the full article 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. Individual memberships are only \$25! 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 many professional engagement & development opportunities. [Learn more here.](#)

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. 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.