



Outdoor Play Canada December 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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Outdoor Play Canada Stakeholder Survey!

We turned two on September 27th! Thanks to outdoor play enthusiasts like you, our first two years have been very productive. We have set a foundation for the future of OPC, actively built our community, and launched the Outdoor Play in Canada: 2021 State of the Sector Report at the 2021 Breath of Fresh Air Outdoor Play Summit on October 6th.

This is our annual check-in with you to see how we can continue to support you and the broader outdoor play community. [Complete the survey here.](#)

Outdoor Play Canada membership structure update!

The Outdoor Play Canada Membership structure is changing! As of January 1, 2022, membership will be on voluntary basis with the following membership categories: basic (donation of your choice \$0-\$19 CAD), contributor (\$20-49 CAD), supporter (\$50-\$99 CAD), champion (\$100+). We will also be merging our newsletter subscription with our membership, **so if you'd like to keep receiving this bi-monthly newsletter, please register as a member!** Active status of OPC membership will expire on December 31st of each year, with membership renewal starting on January 1st. Renewal notices will be sent one month before the membership expires. (Recent OPC members as of fall 2021: we've updated your membership to the end of 2022!)

Join us to continue receiving this newsletter, and gain access to networking opportunities, conference discounts, and much more! To read more about the OPC membership benefits, [click here](#).

US Play Coalition's monthly #WePlayChat to feature OPC!

From 4-5pm EST on December 14th, 2021, Outdoor Play Canada's Research Manager, Dr. Louise de Lannoy will moderate US Play Coalition's monthly #WePlayChat online learning event. The conversation, held on Twitter, will focus on what we can collectively do to promote, protect, preserve, and invest in outdoor play environments.

[Join us on Twitter](#) to contribute to the conversation on this important topic that is in direct alignment with priorities from the Outdoor Play in Canada: 2021 State of the Sector Report.

Outdoor Play in Canada: 2021 State of the Sector Report resources now available in French!

The Outdoor Play in Canada: 2021 State of the Sector Report resources are now all available in both English and French! This report and its various resources were developed in consultation with 63 outdoor play experts from across Canada and 302 outdoor play stakeholders to identify the major priorities for the outdoor play sector in Canada. It puts forward nine priorities and the actions needed to fulfill those priorities. It is our hope that this report be used in guiding research, practice, and policy efforts. If you haven't already, check out our robust resource library (with items organized according to the nine main priorities), the full report, summary report, whiteboard video, slide deck, and summary webinar! All videos are also now available on our [YouTube channel](#).

Check out the Outdoor Play in Canada: 2021 [State of the Sector Report resources here](#).

IPA Canada Play Champions Program!

IPA (International Play Association) Canada has released their Play Champions Program, which recognizes Canadian individuals and organizations that demonstrate exemplary leadership in the provision of play-oriented initiatives and contribute to quality, self-directed play for children and youth.

Learn more about IPA Canada's [Play Champions Program and nominate a worthy applicant here](#).

Active for Life multilingual physical literacy resources (and more)!

To promote accessibility and physical literacy, Active for Life's physical literacy resources are now available in multiple languages, including Arabic, Mandarin, Spanish and more! Many of their articles are available in both English and French, including their holiday Advent calendar ([EN](#) / [FR](#)), and their blog post on 29 fun games kids can play in the snow ([EN](#) / [FR](#)).

Check out Active for Life's [multilingual physical literacy resources here](#). And use their [Guidelines](#) to share their trusted articles and resources out to your networks.

Adventure Calendar

Now that the winter months are upon us, it may be tempting to hide inside until daylight savings time starts back up. But with winter comes new opportunities and ways to play outdoors! Check out OPC's Adventure Calendar for daily ideas on how to embrace outdoor play with your loved ones (big and small), every day!

Check out OPC's [Adventure Calendar here](#).

YMCA of Northern Alberta Parent and Caregiver Workshops

The YMCA of Northern Alberta Parent and Caregiver Workshops focus on enhancing parenting practices and behaviours, including promoting positive play and interaction between parents and children and learning age-appropriate child development skills and milestones. They also provide workshops to support children and youth in their wellness, self-esteem, communication, resiliency, and more.

Learn more about the [YMCA of Northern Alberta Workshops here](#).

The Conversation: Outdoor play in Canada should continue beyond the COVID-19 pandemic

OPC collaborator, Dr. Tanya Halsall from the University of Ottawa, together with OPC Research Manager, Dr. Louise de Lannoy, co-authored a new article published in "The Conversation", entitled: *Outdoor play in Canada should continue beyond the COVID-19 pandemic*. The article outlines the renaissance of outdoor living that has occurred during the pandemic, opportunities the pandemic has highlighted in support of social justice and equity, and ways in which we can collectively increase opportunities for quality time outdoors, as outlined in the Outdoor Play in Canada: 2021 State of the Sector Report. Congratulations Drs. Halsall and de Lannoy!

[Read The Conversation 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. 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.