



## Outdoor Play Canada February 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: [Congratulations to all Lawson Foundation Outdoor Play Strategy Grant Recipients!](#)
- News: [The Outdoor Play State of the Sector Report Consultation Meetings are underway!](#)
- News: [Launch of the OPC Townhall Meetings a Resounding Success!](#)
- Blog Post: [Get outside and play!](#)
- Survey: [Outdoor Play Funding in Canada](#)
- Resources: [ParticipACTION Community Better Challenge](#)
- Call for information: [Traffic Speed and Outdoor Play](#)
- [Join us!](#)

### Congratulations to all Lawson Foundation Outdoor Play Strategy Grant Recipients!

The Lawson Foundation announced the launch of the second phase of its Outdoor Play Strategy on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. They have invested \$4.95 million in 8 demonstration projects, including Outdoor Play Canada, to benefit Early Learning and Child Care across Canada.

Learn more about the funded projects here:

[Okanagan College](#)

[Humber College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning](#)

[Child and Nature Alliance of Canada](#)

[YMCA of Southwestern Ontario](#)

[University of British Columbia](#)

[Regroupement des Centres de la Petite Enfance de la Monteregie](#)

[O'Brien Farm Foundation](#)

[Outdoor Play Canada](#)

## The Outdoor Play Canada State of the Sector Report Consultation Meetings are underway!

In the fall of 2020, OPC reached out to those involved in the outdoor play sector in Canada to participate in a series of consultations on the Outdoor Play State of the Sector Report: a 5-year review of where we have been since the publication of the Position Statement on Active Outdoor Play, where we are now, and a discussion of where we need to go over the next 5 years. We have established a 70-person consultation group from across disciplines, provinces, and communities and are collectively working to create this robust report and identify the major priorities to help guide the sector forward.

If you missed the call to join the consultation, it is not too late to add your voice! We will be seeking input on the final draft of the Report in the late Spring via a consultation survey. To be added to our distribution list for the survey, email us at: [info@outdoorplaycanada.ca](mailto:info@outdoorplaycanada.ca)

## Launch of the Quarterly OPC Townhall Meeting a Resounding Success!

On January 15<sup>th</sup>, we hosted our first (virtual) OPC Townhall Meeting. Dr. Mark Tremblay, chair of the OPC Leadership Group, provided a brief overview of the history of OPC and our strategic priorities for the next three years. We heard from Ken Zolotar from ParticipACTION, Eric Cartlidge from Jumpstart, Diane Yanch from the City of Fort Saskatchewan, and Stephanie Won from the City of Calgary on the latest programs, projects, and events happening within the outdoor play sector in Canada. We ended the townhall with a lively discussion on the state of outdoor play in Canada, and access to the outdoors in the face of current COVID-19 related restrictions.

Our next townhall will be held Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 12pm EST. [Register now!](#)

## Blog post: Get outside and play!

Dr. Mark Tremblay, chair of Outdoor Play Canada, recently wrote a blog post about the importance of outdoor play for health and wellbeing, and stressed that any post-COVID-19 “return to normal” must include an adjustment in resource distribution, land utilization, and policy development that facilitates a recalibration of the indoor to outdoor time ratio of Canadians.

Read the [full blog post here...](#)

## Survey: Outdoor Play Funding in Canada

The Lawson Foundation and Outdoor Play Canada are seeking input from Canadian grant-seekers on the current funding landscape for outdoor play in Canada. This research will be used to support efforts to raise awareness, connect stakeholders and funders, identify funding opportunities, and promote investment in outdoor play.

Complete the 10-minute survey here: [in English](#), and/et [en français](#).

*All responses will be confidential. All responses will be compiled together and analyzed as a group. The survey will remain open until February 17th, 2021.*

## ParticipACTION Community Better Challenge

The [Community Better Challenge](#) rallies communities to come together - virtually or physically distanced of course - to build social bonds through physical activity and sport participation. ParticipACTION is providing micro-grants between \$250 - \$1,000 to support community organizations delivering essential physical activity programming and help stimulate safe re-engagement. **Grant applications will be accepted from January 25 – February 26.**

Learn more about the Community Better Challenge and apply for the grant [here](#).

## Call for information: Traffic Speed and Outdoor Play

Mike Arthur, from the Healthy Populations Institute at Dalhousie University, is helping three municipal governments and one Mi'kmaq community in Nova Scotia to develop policy actions on outdoor play and active travel. The work will be completed by the end of June. Mike is specifically seeking information on the relationship between traffic speed and outdoor play.

Please send knowledge/papers/project to: [michael.arthur@bellaliant.net](mailto:michael.arthur@bellaliant.net)

## 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.*