



Outdoor Play Canada July 2022 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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PhD Studentship on Outdoor Play!

[Dr. Mark Tremblay](#), chair of Outdoor Play Canada, is looking for an outstanding **PhD Student** to work on research related to outdoor play and healthy growth and development in young children. The research will examine the relationships among outdoor play/outdoor exposure (e.g. Forest School type environment) and movement behaviours, physical, cognitive, and social-emotional development of 1-5 year-olds, their parents and care providers. The deadline to apply is **September 1, 2022**

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

\$1.3M announced for UBC's Dr. Mariana Brussoni to study how to support children's outdoor play in early learning and childcare centres!

On July 11, the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, Karina Gould, announced \$1,294,439 in federal funding for Dr. Mariana Brussoni and her project, 'PROmoting Early Childhood Outside' (PRO-ECO). Dr. Brussoni's study was awarded funding through the Government of Canada's [Early Learning and Child Care Innovation Program](#), which supports innovative practices that strengthen the changing nature of early learning and child care (ELCC). Through the PRO-ECO study, Dr. Brussoni's team is examining several different components of ELCC centres that influence children's outdoor play — from the attitudes and beliefs of the educators and administrators to the outdoor play policies at each site, and the built environment and landscaping at childcare facilities. The announced funding will support a second phase of the PRO-ECO study over the next two years; the first phase was funded by the [Lawson Foundation](#) and is currently ongoing. The expansion of the PRO-ECO project will involve a partnership with First Nations and Métis childcare organizations to expand and support children's outdoor play at 10 ELCC centres.

You can read more about this funding announcement [here](#).

PROmoting Early Childhood Outside (PRO-ECO): A mixed-methods study to support outdoor play in early childhood education centres

Rachel Ramsden, PhD student in the School of Population and Public Health at the University of British Columbia, recently wrote a blog post for OPC about the 'PROmoting Early Childhood Outside' (PRO-ECO) project. She writes: 'Summer weather encourages many of us outdoors and, as we saw during the COVID pandemic, being outside brings us many benefits – to our health and wellbeing. The research in our lab focuses on creating environments that support children being able to get outside and play every day. Over the past year, we've been working with early childhood education centres to increase outdoor play opportunities through the PROmoting Early Childhood Outside (PRO-ECO) study.'

Read the full blog post about the PRO-ECO project [here](#).

Canada's Ocean Playground

Nova Scotia is Canada's Ocean Playground. Our ocean playground is one of the many reasons Nova Scotians, and Canadians, love this coastal province. Imagine if the whole province was a "playground" — full of formal and informal spaces and places for children and adults to play every day. When children play, they learn social and cognitive skills that help them to grow up strong and healthy.

In this blog post, Dr. Hilary Caldwell and colleagues discuss what it would take for Nova Scotia to be a play-friendly province, with a discussion on four key areas.

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

Play, Learn and Teach Outdoors – Network (PLaTO-Net): Terminology, Taxonomy, and Ontology

A team of 67 educators, practitioners, and researchers from across the globe recently published a consensus paper on the terminology, taxonomy, and ontology of 31 key terms in outdoor play, outdoor learning, and outdoor teaching. This two-year project in the making was led by the founders of [PLaTO-Net](#) (Play, Learn, and Teach Outdoors Network), [Dr. Mark Tremblay](#) at Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute and [Dr. Eun-Young Lee](#) at Queen’s University.

In this blog post, Dr. Eun-Young Lee and Dr. Louise de Lannoy discuss the inspiration for the project, their goals, the final product, and how this work contributes to advancing play, learning, and teaching-based research and future collaboration within this growing field.

[Read the full post here.](#)

Taking the Local, Global: The Outdoor Learning Store Success Story

Over a decade ago now, inspired by their local towering mountains, boundless lakes and streams, and dense forests, educators from across the Canadian Columbia Basin recognized that they shared geographic and cultural links and a common interest in environmental education (EE). The [Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network \(CBEEN\)](#) was born out of this shared sense of identity and from the common desire to support and promote EE on a regional scale. Thinking bigger and more inclusively over the past 10 years, CBEEN has grown from a small group of passionate educators to a large and vibrant network of educators from across the Columbia Basin and beyond. As part of this growth, the [Outdoor Learning Store](#) was created; a charitable not-for-profit social enterprise that offers network-approved outdoor learning equipment and resources for educators and learners, while supporting outdoor learning not-for-profit organizations.

In this blog post, Jade Harvey-Berill describes the Outdoor Learning Store’s journey and the many resources and tools that have developed to facilitate outdoor learning for educators and students alike.

[Read the full post here.](#)

Hop!

Hop! created by [EnviroCentre](#) and the [Ottawa Student Transportation Authority \(OSTA\)](#), is a new app-based tool designed for schools, school boards, and school transportation providers to encourage students to walk more often. It is free to use and available in both English and French.

Explore the [Hop! app here](#). Also check out the Hop! Toolkit, which is available in both [English](#) and [French](#).

The Canadian Olympic School Program

The Canadian Olympic School Program (COSP) offers over 100 free, online resources designed to inspire and challenge students to integrate the Olympic Spirit in their daily lives. Applicable to all grade levels, from elementary to high school, the COSP resources are pedagogically sound and written by teachers for effortless implementation in all learning and sport environments.

[Learn more here](#)

Offre de formation de 100 degrés sur l'éducation en plein air

'L'offre de formation de 100 degrés sur l'éducation en plein air' provides new ideas, knowledge, and resources to enrich the practice of educators bringing teaching and learning outdoors. To support educators interested in pursuing this practice, '100 degrés' offers several free online courses and webinars, made possible through the support of the ministère de l'Éducation du Québec and la Fondation Monique Fitz-Back.

[Learn more about 100 degrés 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.