



Outdoor Play Canada October 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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A successful second biennial Breath of Fresh Air Summit!

The biennial Breath of Fresh Air Summit was held from October 6th-7th, 2021! At that meeting we unveiled the Canadian Centre for Outdoor Play, released the *Outdoor Play in Canada: 2021 State of the Sector Report*, announced this year's Outdoor Play Canada Award Winners, and heard updates from several of our OPC members!

Keep reading to learn more about these many announcements!

The Outdoor Play in Canada: 2021 State of the Sector Report has launched!

On October 6th, 2021, Outdoor Play Canada released the *Outdoor Play in Canada: 2021 State of the Sector Report* at the 2nd biennial Breath of Fresh Air Summit. Working with a 63-person consultation group and with input from 302 outdoor play stakeholders, the *State of the Sector Report* provides a common vision for the sector to thrive and succeed over the next 5 years. It puts forward nine priorities for the outdoor play sector and the actions needed to fulfill those priorities. The Report lives in various formats including a detailed research grade report, a public-facing strategic directions summary, an online library, a social media strategy, a succinct whiteboard video, and a more detailed slide deck and summary webinar. All components are available in English and French.

Learn more about the *Outdoor Play in Canada: 2021 State of the Sector Report* [here \(EN\)](#) et [ici \(FR\)](#).

Announcing the Outdoor Play Canada 2021 Award Winners!

The Outdoor Play Canada Awards celebrate those who demonstrate exceptional leadership in and have made outstanding contributions to the outdoor play movement in Canada. This year's winners were presented at the Breath of Fresh Air Summit on October 6th. Awardees include: the Child Nature Alliance of Canada (OPC Honour Award), Brenda Simon and Linda Naccarato (Dr. Mariana Brussoni Award), Mike Arthur (Policy Award), Janna Sullivan, Aleesha Bird, Joanne Dunn and Meera Bandechha (Practice Award), and Dr. Trish Tucker (Research Award).

[Learn more about our 2021 award winners here.](#)

New Resource section on the Outdoor Play Canada website!

We have given the Outdoor Play Canada resource webpage a make-over! We organized the main categories into tiles to better clarify the options that users can select from and have added filters within each category to help users sort better. We hope this new layout helps you in your play work.

Check out our [new Resource section here.](#)

Are we missing anything? [Email us](#) to share your outdoor play resource.

OPC has a YouTube channel!

Outdoor Play Canada has a YouTube channel! Visit and subscribe to our channel to check out the Outdoor Play in Canada: 2021 State of the Sector Report whiteboard videos and summary webinar. Are you an Outdoor Play Canada member? Send us your outdoor play videos to add to our channel!

Check out and subscribe to [the Outdoor Play Canada YouTube channel here.](#)

Take Me Outside Day is October 20th, 2021!

Take Me Outside Day aims to raise awareness about outdoor learning by encouraging teachers to take their students outside for 1 hour on October 20th. This year, the TMO team is hosting a full week of speakers, activities, and events to engage students and teachers alike from October 18-22.

[Learn more about Take Me Outside Day here.](#)

The Conversation: 6 actions school systems can take to support children's outdoor learning

OPC Leadership Group Member, Dr. Mariana Brussoni, along with Dr. Eva Oberle and Megan Zeni from the University of British Columbia, authored a new article published in The Conversation, entitled: *6 actions school systems can take to support children's outdoor learning*. The article outlines the benefits of outdoor learning, barriers that teachers often face when bringing learning outdoors, and 6 actions that school systems can do to help support this movement. Congratulations Dr. Brussoni and colleagues!

[Read The Conversation article here.](#)

New Report: Schoolyards Count

Congratulations to Kelly Gallagher-Mackay (Wilfrid Laurier University), Christine Corso (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education), and Tammy Shubat (Ophea) on the release of their new report *Schoolyards Count*. This report provides a review of why schoolyards matter for the health and wellbeing of students, a review of the gaps in research on schoolyard quality and presents their findings on the promotion of physical activity, environmental learning and play in schoolyards, and differences in the quality of schoolyards between communities and neighborhoods.

[Learn more about Schoolyards Count Report 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.