



Outdoor Play Canada September 2023 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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Breath of Fresh Air Outdoor Play Summit Registration is Almost Here!

The Breath of Fresh Air Outdoor Play Summit is a three-day Outdoor Play Summit running from Sept 27-29, where thought leaders, practitioners, researchers, and policy makers can connect and share best practices, in the outdoors. The theme for the 2023 summit is 'Research, policy, and practice – their intersections for the promotion of outdoor play'.

The 2023 Summit is completely sold out! To live vicariously through those attending, follow us on [Instagram](#), [Twitter/X](#), [Facebook](#), and check-out updates [on our website](#).

Outdoor Play-Based Learning: An Unlearning Series

What is possible in outdoor play-based learning? How can we keep ourselves from reproducing our indoor challenges outdoors? What is the role of the educator in play-based learning? What practices invite self-agency and freedom? What do interactions between educator and child look like in outdoor play-based learning?

Starting October 16, join Playful Mindset and Metalude to explore answers to these questions and more at their new 'Outdoor Play-Based Learning: A Learning & Unlearning Series' they are offering in collaboration with the Outdoor Learning Store and Outdoor Play Canada.

[Registration is now open!](#)

2023 Fall Outdoor Learning Virtual Workshop Series

The Outdoor Learning Store is partnering with over 70 other non-profit partners to offer Free Fall Outdoor Learning Virtual Workshops! Registration is free, all registrants receive a discount code to access outdoor learning resources when they register, and all workshop recordings are posted to the Outdoor Learning Store's Recordings Page.

[Learn more here!](#)

Call for participants!

Early childhood educators and administrators are invited to share their perspectives on outdoor play in their childcare centre. A new survey launched by the University of British Columbia seeks to understand the context for outdoor play within full-time early learning and childcare centres across Canada, including time outdoors, available physical infrastructure, training and pedagogy. **The first 1,000 respondents will receive a \$25 gift card!**

To participate, [visit the survey link](#).

If you are interested in sharing the MECO survey to your networks, please contact outdoorplay@bcchr.ca.

Are you IN to get OUT? Take Me Outside Day 2023 is coming!

Take Me Outside Day is back for its 13th year, helping raise awareness and advocating for outdoor learning by helping educators and learners feel inspired to head outside and learn beyond the four walls of a classroom! From Oct 16th – 20th, thousands of educators and learners will come together to participate in a week of speakers, activities, and awesome prizes. Within the three themes of Indigenous Knowledge & Perspectives, Health & Well-being, and Environmental & Climate Change Education, there is something for all ages, grades and subjects.

[Learn more here.](#)

National Healthy Schools Week!

The first annual National Healthy Schools Week is October 2-6, 2023! National Healthy Schools Week is a kickoff event for schools to prioritize, plan, and engage in Healthy School conversations early in the school year. This week-long initiative is unique to each school's context in how they identify resources, develop community partners, and define priority areas.

[Learn more here!](#)

Join Our Outdoor Early Childhood Education Community of Practice!

The Outdoor Early Childhood Education Community of Practice, led by the [Canadian Centre for Outdoor Play partnership](#), is geared towards early childhood educators across Canada that are interested in and/or already in support of regularly bringing children outdoors!

The overarching ethos is to promote collaboration, empower practitioners to promote outdoor play opportunities across a variety of settings, and ensure outdoor early childhood education programming is culturally appropriate and place-based. [Learn more and sign up here!](#)

PhD Studentship on Outdoor Play

Dr. Mark Tremblay, president 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.

[Learn more here.](#)

10-Year Anniversary of the Position Statement on Active Outdoor Play

In 2025, it will be 10 years since the release of the Position Statement on Active Outdoor Play. To mark this milestone, an initial group of researchers from the [CHEO Research Institute](#), [Outdoor Play Canada](#), [Queen's University](#), [ParticipACTION](#), [the Alana Institute](#), the [National Taiwan University of Physical Education and Sport](#), [University of Ghana](#), [Auckland University of Technology](#), [International Play Association](#), and the [Copenhagen University Hospital](#) have come together to begin developing an update to the Position Statement, to describe its impact, make it global in reach and relevance, and draw on insights gained from the past decade, including the global COVID-19 pandemic.

We are looking for insightful and energetic individuals who share our passion for outdoor play to join us in this endeavour! [Learn more about how to join, here.](#)

The Power of Play and Objects in Children's Early Learning

The complexity of early childhood learning led to the introduction of the concept of 'deep level learning'. Deep level learning goes beyond surface-level understanding and aims to engage children in immersive and meaningful challenges. Our latest guest blog post by Dr. Ole Sando from Queen Maud University in Trondheim, Norway describes his team's recent research study exploring the relationship between children's play, objects in their environment, and their deep level learning.

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

City of Neighbors Learning Resource

City of Neighbors is the fourth book in the ThinkCities series by Andrea Curtis. It is a tool for kids, parents and teachers to learn about placemaking projects around the world. It aims to inspire young people to consider how they can get involved in making their community greener, cleaner, safer and more fun and accessible for everyone.

Learn more about the [City of Neighbors Learning Resource 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.