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## Outdoor Play Canada January 2025 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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## OPC Leads Workshop and Symposium in Seoul, South Korea

From Dec 7-10, OPC held an intensive workshop in Seoul, South Korea on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary update to the Position Statement on Active Outdoor Play. This 3-day meeting was led by the executive team for this project: OPC Executive Director, Dr. Louise de Lannoy, OPC President, Dr. Mark Tremblay and OPC Secretary, Dr. Eun-Young Lee and involved the 10-yr anniversary global leadership group with representatives from every continent, including: Dina Adjei Boadi (Ghana), Isabel de Barros (Brazil), Scott Duncan (New Zealand), Laerke Groenfeldt (Denmark), Maeghan James (Canada), Robyn Monro Miller (Australia), Leigh Vanderloo (Canada), and Po-Yu Wang (Taiwan).

OPC had tremendous support and hospitality from Yonsei University throughout our stay. We shared updates on 6 continental reviews on active outdoor play and 10 systematic/scoping reviews related to this project. There is a ton of work ongoing in relation to this project and we are excited for the official launch of the updated position statement on September 25th at the Breath of Fresh Air Summit in Ottawa.

If you are interested in joining the Steering Committee for this project, [click here](#).

## Job Posting: Canadian Centre for Outdoor Play Fellow

Outdoor Play Canada is looking to hire a **full-time Canadian Centre for Outdoor Play (CCOP) Fellow for one year** to build capacity and thought-leadership for outdoor play stakeholders. The CCOP Fellow's role will be to lead advocacy and thought-leadership initiatives for the promotion of outdoor play in the early years, in collaboration with the CCOP partnership, consisting of the Healthy Active Living and Obesity Research Group (HALO) at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) Research Institute, Andrew Fleck Children's Services, Algonquin College, and Outdoor Play Canada (OPC). For more information about this position, [click here](#).

## BoFA Outdoor Play Summit 2025: Registration and Call for Presentation/Workshop Submissions Now Open!

Outdoor Play Canada is thrilled to announce that [registration is now open](#), and we are currently accepting presentation/workshop submissions for the 2025 Breath of Fresh Air (BoFA) Outdoor Play Summit. With a theme of 'Play Across the Ages – Nature's Call to All', the BoFA Outdoor Play Summit will once again take place at Wesley Clover Parks in Ottawa, Ontario, from September 25-27, 2025, in partnership with the [CHEO Research Institute](#), [Andrew Fleck Children's Services](#), [IPA Canada](#), and the [National Institute for Play](#).

Looking to the past, present, and future of outdoor play, the 2025 summit aims to inspire conversation and action on the value of play in fostering community, inclusive play environments, environmental stewardship, and overall health and well-being, informed and celebrated by the launch of the [10-year update to the Position Statement on Active Outdoor Play!](#)

The call for presentation and workshop proposals is open until **March 31st, 2025**. For more details, [click here](#).

## Free Virtual Workshop: Outdoor Learning in the

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## [Early Years](#)

The Outdoor Learning School and Store recently delivered a free virtual workshop titled Outdoor Learning in the Early Years. This expert-led session featured an incredible panel of educators, researchers, authors, and practitioners who shared practical tools, resources, and ideas to enhance your outdoor learning practices, specifically tailored for the early years. Among the esteemed presenters was Lisa Lalonde (RECE), leadership group member of the Canadian Centre for Outdoor Play, who discussed the work of Outdoor Play Canada and introduced the new Outdoor ECE Framework.

To learn more, [click here](#).

## [Park People's 2024 Canadian City Parks Report](#)

Park People's 2024 Canadian City Parks Report, titled "Bridging the Gap," examines how partnerships and collaborations can help overcome the pressing challenges facing Canada's park sector today. With insights from cities across Canada, this sixth annual edition highlights strategies to advance urban park development and management while fostering vibrant, inclusive, and resilient spaces for all.

To view the report and learn more about how Canadian cities are reimagining parks for the future, [click here](#).

## [World Playground Research Institute Article Database](#)

The World Playground Research Institute has created a comprehensive article database, offering access to peer-reviewed articles and evidence-based studies on playground design, play environments, and their impact on child development. Curated by industry experts, the database supports educators, researchers, policymakers, and designers in promoting high-quality, inclusive, and engaging play spaces.

[Click here](#) to access the World Playground Research Institute's database.

## [PaRx Prescription for Nature Expanding Across the Provinces](#)

Since 2020, the PaRx Prescription for Nature program has meant that physicians first in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario (and now many more) could prescribe a [Parks Canada Discovery Pass](#) to their patients for the purposes of promoting physical and mental health. And the collaboration keeps growing! In 2024, [Conservation Halton](#) and [Halton Healthcare](#) partnered with PaRx to include access to local conservation areas as part of the nature prescription program.

PaRx offers practical resources to physicians and other health care workers to support them in promoting time in nature among patients. This includes a nature prescription file, provider code and instructions. To learn more, [click here](#).

## [International Play Association: The 2024 Edition of](#)

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## [Play Rights Magazine!](#)

The International Play Association (IPA) is thrilled to share the 2024 edition of Play Rights Magazine, edited by Dr. Sudeshna Chatterjee and the first-ever Play Rights Editorial Board. This issue is open access and free to share—perfect for spreading the message of play as you plan for your year ahead in 2025. To access the 2024 edition of Play Rights Magazine, [click here](#).

To join or renew your membership to IPA, please visit [Join IPA](#) or contact [President@IPAWorld.global](mailto:President@IPAWorld.global).

## [RED January Canada 2025: Join the Community!](#)

Celebrating its 10th year in the UK and 2nd here in Canada, RED (Rise Every Day) January is a nationwide community that's open to individuals and teams of all ages and abilities. RED's philosophy is to empower all of us to move and boost our mood in the winter, creating a sense of togetherness and support.

This year's RED January mission is to inspire 10,000+ Canadians to participate and make everyone feel valued and included. Signing up is free, and people can choose whether to raise money for Canada's Charity Partner, [The GenWell Project](#). Together, they are working to boost our nation's mental, physical and social well-being by inspiring everyone to Rise Every Day by stepping outside, building new relationships, strengthening bonds, and making connection a daily habit for a healthier, happier society.

To learn more about RED January, [click 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!](#)

## [Join Us!](#)

In an effort to improve accessibility and inclusivity, the OPC membership now consists of two options: general (\$0-99) and champions (\$100) members.

All members have access to the members-only section of the website regardless of payment. Champions have the added bonus of being celebrated on our [About Us](#) page and will have a tree planted in their honour at our new [Canadian Centre for Outdoor Play](#), located at Wesley Clover Parks in Ottawa, ON!

Join the movement, become an OPC member! Show your support of our effort to promote, protect, and

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preserve access to play in nature and the outdoors for all people living in Canada.

[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](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.*



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**Our mailing address is:**

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