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## Outdoor Play Canada November 2024 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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## [Interview with Kim Hiscott and Debbie Groff on Licensing Outdoor and Land-based ECE in Canada](#)

Kim Hiscott, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Andrew Fleck Children's Services sat down with Debbie Groff, Child Care Deputy Senior Administrator for the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) in Washington State. In 2021, Washington State became the first state in the US to license outdoor, nature-based childcare programs for preschool and school-age children. In the interview, Debbie shares some insights on that process and discusses ways their model may be used to inform and advance licensing of outdoor and Land-based childcare in Canada.

[Click here](#) to view the interview.

## [New Webinar on the CCOP's Newly Launched Framework: Educators Teaching Educators: Canada's Outdoor Early Childhood Education Continuous Professional Learning Framework!](#)

The Canadian Centre for Outdoor Play (CCOP) recently hosted a special webinar on the newly launched Outdoor ECE Framework, formally known as, [Educators Teaching Educators: Canada's Outdoor Early Childhood Education Continuous Professional Learning Framework](#).

Developed by the CCOP, this innovative framework was brought to fruition using valuable insights from early learning professionals across Canada, with the aim of supporting educators in delivering high-quality, outdoor-focused early learning experiences.

To view this webinar, please visit Outdoor Play Canada's YouTube channel, or [click here](#).

## [Rethinking Gift Giving This Holiday Season with Bigger Hearts, Less Stuff, More Experiences, and a Healthier Planet](#)

Holiday gift ideas are often traditionally centered around material items, most of which being items that are not essential or needed and likely superfluous. Such things fill closets and cupboards, consume resources (natural and financial), and pad corporate profits. Recognizing the harmful effects of excessive materialism on both individuals and the planet, OPC invites you to join us in embracing a "giving reset" this holiday season (and all those that come after this one!) by shifting away from material items and sharing gifts via donations, experiences, and a healthy planet.

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

## [New Webinar: Supporting Outdoor Play and Learning for Children with Disabilities: Insights from](#)

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## Canada and Denmark

[Outdoor Play Canada](#) and [Children & Nature Denmark](#) recently came together to present a special webinar on supporting outdoor play and learning for children with disabilities. This session highlighted the ongoing work of these two national outdoor play organizations and preliminary research findings on supporting inclusive and accessible outdoor play and learning in both Canada and Denmark. To view this webinar, [click here](#).

## Active for Life: Active Start Monthly Newsletter

Active Start is a monthly newsletter tailored specifically to a child's age and filled with activities, games, ideas, informative articles and tips designed to help children develop a love of being active. They have two newsletter categories: one for parents and caregivers of children newborn to 2 years of age, and another for parents and caregivers of children 2-4 years of age. Each newsletter provides tailored topics from early brain development to games and activities that explore outdoor sensory play, getting into nature, playing outside in all seasons, and more.

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

## Appetite to Play Program

[Child Health BC](#), with partners [Sport for Life Society](#), [YMCA of Greater Vancouver](#), [Childhood Healthy Living Foundation](#), and [BC Recreation and Parks Association](#) developed the Appetite to Play program to build physical activity, physical literacy, and food literacy capacity in early years settings. Appetite to Play provides a web resource, toolkit, and training workshops for early childhood educators. The program has recently launched a family facilitator module that supports community-based workers to support families in the area of physical activity and healthy eating in the early years.

[Learn more here](#).

Read the Evaluation Report here: [BC Physical Activity Action Plan\\_ Appetite to Play](#)

## Discover the CPRA's Activate Your Neighbourhood (AYN) Guide for Active and Connected Living!

The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) has recently developed the Activate Your Neighbourhood (AYN) guide - filled with ideas, links, and resources - to help Canadians reimagine, rethink, and repurpose the spaces in their neighbourhoods to support and encourage physical activity and social connections.

To find out more about the AYN tactical guide, created for people who live in neighbourhoods, please [click here](#).

## New Lancet Series: Early Childhood Development and the Next 1000 Days

This new two-part Lancet series, delivered by the Early Childhood Development Action Network ([ECDAN](#)), explores the "next 1,000 days" of a child's life, covering the critical developmental period from ages two to five. The series highlights the importance of this developmental period, explores care environments, risks,

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and protective factors shaping development, assesses access to nurturing care, and evaluates the effectiveness of current interventions. The launch of 'Next 1000 Days' series began with a webinar, which was released on November 19th, 2024. The recording of the webinar is available on ECDAN's website.

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

## [Registration Open for COEO's Make Peace with Winter Conference!](#)

Registration for the [Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario](#)'s Annual Make Peace with Winter Conference is now open! The conference runs from the evening of Friday, January 24 to mid-day Sunday, January 26, 2025 at Camp Kawartha. This year's theme of "Winter's Embrace" encourages us to discover ways to engage with outdoor education in the winter months, emphasizing the rich, transformative experiences that come from embracing this special season. This conference is intended for any students or professionals looking to expand their knowledge and connections in the field of outdoor education, learning & play (including Bachelor of Education students, graduate students, teachers, early childhood educators, researchers, academics, and more!).

To find out more information about the conference, [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!](#)

## [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](#), [Queens 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](#).

## [Join Us!](#)

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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.

All OPC members have access to the members-only section of the website regardless of payment (but you still have to renew). 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!

[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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