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Outdoor Play Canada Special Issue June 2024 Newsletter

OPC projects and activities encompass all traditional territories of the Indigenous Nations of Turtle Island, within the land we now call Canada.

In this issue...

- [The First Innaugural International Day of Play!](#)
- [June 21- National Indigenous People's Day!](#)
- [Unveiling of the Canadian Centre for Outdoor Play!](#)
- [\\$1.7M Awarded for a New Project Addressing Challenges in Outdoor Play and Learning for Children Living with Disabilities](#)
- [Join Us!](#)

[June 11- The First Inaugural International Day of](#)

[Play!](#)

On June 11, 2024, we celebrated the first-ever International Day of Play! This marks the beginning of an annual global awareness day adopted by the United Nations in collaboration with groups from around the world, aiming to raise awareness about the vital role that play has on children's physical, cognitive, social and emotional development.

Click [here](#) to learn more about how outdoor play organizations around the world celebrated this day.

[June 21- National Indigenous People's Day!](#)

June 21st was National Indigenous People's Day, a national celebration of the heritage, cultures, and achievements of First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples. This day overlaps with the summer solstice, which is a significant day for many Indigenous cultures. It also falls within [National Indigenous History Month](#), which this year will highlight specific aspects of Indigenous history, cultures and perspectives.

[Read more here](#)

[Unveiling the Canadian Centre for Outdoor Play!](#)

Join us, June 27th 4:30-7:30pm (TODAY!) at 415 Corkstown Rd in Ottawa to celebrate the grand opening of Forest Explorers, a licensed program of Andrew Fleck Children's Services and home of the Canadian Centre for Outdoor Play! Activities will include a peace walk, ribbon cutting, self-guided tours of the new building, and outdoor play activities for kids of all abilities and ages.

[Register for the event here!](#) Proudly supported by the Government of Canada and ParticipACTION.

[\\$1.7M Awarded for New Project Addressing Challenges in Outdoor Play and Learning for Children Living with Disabilities](#)

[Outdoor Play Canada](#), the [Healthy Active Living and Obesity Research Group](#) at the [CHEO Research Institute](#), [Andrew Fleck Children's Services](#),

[Algonquin College](#) and the [Canadian Disability Participation Project](#) have recently been awarded \$1.7M from the [Public Health Agency of Canada's Healthy Canadians and Communities Fund](#) for a 4-year project to address challenges in the built and social environment for outdoor play and learning in natural spaces for young children living with disabilities.

[Read more here](#) (or join us at the launch of the CCOP to chat with us in person!).

[Join Us!](#)

We have changed the OPC membership structure in an effort to improve accessibility and inclusivity. Membership now consists of two options: general (\$0-99) and champions (\$100) members.

All members now 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!

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.

[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.



Our mailing address is:

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