

# Spring/Summer 2023

**Child and Youth Care Educational Accreditation Board of Canada**



Image by [Freepik](#)



**CACEJ** | **CYCEA**

CONSEIL D'AGRÉMENT DES CONSEILLERS AUPRÈS  
DE L'ENFANCE ET DE LA JEUNESSE DU CANADA

CHILD AND YOUTH CARE EDUCATIONAL  
ACCREDITATION BOARD OF CANADA

# Let's hear from you!

This newsletter is intended to be a networking resource firstly for the members of CYCEAB and secondly for the broader public interested in the educational practice in the field of Child and Youth Care. Our board wants to celebrate the wonderful work that is occurring within the member programs. Over the next publications of the CYCEAB newsletter, you will get the opportunity to read about what is going on across Canada, and internationally, as we invite members from each membership region to share the work that goes on within their programs.

This newsletter is focused on the **Central and Northern regions**. We have membership from the Central and Northern regions from the following:

- Algonquin College
- Cambrian College
- Centennial College
- Fleming College
- George Brown College
- Georgian College
- Humber College
- Lambton College
- Mohawk College
- Ontario Association of Child and Youth Care
- Seneca College
- Sheridan College
- St. Clair College
- Toronto Metropolitan University

Enjoy the submissions from Seneca College and Mohawk College, and Humber College!

Our next newsletter will focus on our **eastern region**. Please consider submitting something for our winter newsletter.

# Upcoming Events



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Register at no cost

## ACCREDITATION PROCESS: AN OVERVIEW + ONE PROGRAM'S EXPERIENCE

Sixteen post-secondary institutions in Canada have CYCEAB-accredited Child and Youth Care programs. Four additional institutions and their CYC programs are now moving through the accreditation process. The most recent accredited program is the University of the Fraser Valley's Bachelor of Arts Degree in Child and Youth Care.

Join Wendy Weninger, CYCEAB Accreditation Coordinator, and Christine Slavik, who was the accreditation team lead for UFV's successful accreditation application, and learn more about the accreditation experience!



**April 27, 2023**

**10:00-11:30 AM MDT**



**Christine Slavik**  
**BA CYC, MEd, EdD, CCLS**

Associate Professor, Child, Youth and Family Studies  
Coordinator, Graduate Certificate in Child Life and Community Health  
University of the Fraser Valley

### Why CYCEAB Accreditation?

Accreditation is:

- A vehicle for organizational change.
- A method to achieve sound quality assurance practices.
- A system for demonstrating accountability.
- A mechanism to create a community of practice among child and youth care education programs.

Register at:

<https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJUqcOyrqj4sEtQij6H6GgAvAGWEqGI-45-i>

# Upcoming Events



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## CYCEAB WEBINAR SERIES 2023

April 26, 2023, 1:00-2:30 pm EDT  
(Please adjust to your time zone.)

### Experiential Learning: Sharing Best Practices

HOST

Kim Ann Laush

Vice President, CYCEAB

CYW., B.A., B.Ed. (OCT), M.Ed., Ed.D.

Kim Ann has worked in post-secondary for 19 years and she has been actively engaged in field placement, both as a Field Placement Coordinator, Professor, and in her current role as Associate Dean of Community Studies at Mohawk College.



## DISCUSSIONS AND INSIGHTS

Kim Ann invites you to share how your post-secondary institution is integrating experiential learning in your Child and Youth Care program, with a focus on how this translates to practice during practicum experiences. This is a great opportunity to share best practices and learn from each other how to provide optimal experiences for learners both inside and outside of the classroom.

CYCEAB is pleased to offer this webinar at no cost to its members and to the CYC community.

Register at [https://zoom.us/meeting/register/\\_JMpc-yhpzkoG9HpCg74cJoNJFFbDjbTdgYz](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/_JMpc-yhpzkoG9HpCg74cJoNJFFbDjbTdgYz)

<https://cycaccreditation.ca/opportunities/>



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For New and  
Experienced  
Writers!

## DISCUSSIONS AND INSIGHTS

The CYCEAB accreditation process asks faculty how they are contributing to the development of the CYC profession and CYC post-secondary education. It also asks about faculty professional training and development.

If writing and sharing your work is part of this process, join us to learn some of the details of getting started and working through the publishing steps.

If you are a CYC student or practitioner, this is a perfect opportunity to learn how you can become a published author!

<https://cycaccreditation.ca/opportunities/>

Purchase tickets at:  
**CYCEAB Webinar May 10, 2023**

# CYCEAB WEBINAR SERIES 2023

How Do I Get  
Published? \$40

May 10, 2023

12:00-1:30 pm EDT

Please adjust  
to your time  
zone.

A Facilitated  
Discussion With Reps from  
CYC-Net Press and  
Canadian Scholars



**MARTIN STABREY**

COO, International CYC  
Network and CYC-Net Press  
and Managing Editor of  
CYC-Online



**EMMA MELNYK**

Editor, Canadian  
Scholars



**PAT KOSTOUROS**

Author and Professor,  
Child Studies and Social  
Work, Mount Royal  
University, and member of  
Relational Journal of Child  
and Youth Care Practice  
Editorial Board



**JAMES FREEMAN**

Trainer, Speaker, Author  
and Co-editor of  
"Relational Child and  
Youth Care Practice"

# Mohawk College

Our final cohort this winter is our graduating class of 2023. Having made it through the online years of COVID, then transitioning into in-person college life... they have made it through! Here are a few of them, now preparing themselves to transition into the field as young Child and Youth Care practitioners! Big congratulations to our graduating class of 2023!



To address the lack of parent volunteers, the group created a flyer outlining the four steps to obtaining a Vulnerable Sector Check.



The school CYCP requested that we provide the Vulnerable Sector Check flyer in several different languages due to the community being so diverse. This was taken into consideration and is still being worked on by one of the group members. A few of the requested languages were Bengali, Kurdish, and Arabic. The CYCP group had a fun time working together and enjoyed helping this school community. It became clear to them that there are a great deal of people who care and would like to help, but simply do not have the time or resources to do so.

Volunteering their time and energy to this community was a rewarding experience. On their first day organizing, youth were expressing interest in the items that were donated. The second time they returned, one of the group members noticed a youth wearing a sweater that had been donated.



The group anticipate that the clothing closet will become a sustainable part of the school since flyers have been provided highlighting seasonal items the school tends to need most.

The group has hopes that the Vulnerable Sector check flyer streamlines the volunteer process for the school, allowing them to expand their clothing closet and enhance their snack program.



It's important to keep in mind that when children and youth are provided with the necessary resources to thrive, such as food and clothing, they are more likely to feel confident and secure in their environments.

Having appropriate clothing and footwear to choose from will allow the youth to feel confident in themselves.

Taking into account Robert Putnam's theory of social networks having value, this group of CYCP's are hoping this information will lead to reciprocity within the community, collective action, and a sense of identity and solidarity once the program is up and running.

THANK YOU

Anesu, Carol, Karoline, Kelsie, & Nicole

# Seneca College



## Coldest Night of the Year

On February 25th, 2023, a team of Seneca College Child and Youth Care students and faculty participated in the *Coldest Night of the Year's* 5 km walk in support of local charities serving individuals and families experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness. Not only was it a wonderful cause to support, but it felt very natural coming together as CYCs for such an important event. It was a fun opportunity to connect outside of the classroom, with a little welcomed competition as our team raised over \$1700!

The Newmarket event was well organized, energizing and COLD!

We look forward to participating again next year! - Laura V., Justin B. and David C. (CYC Faculty)

## Student Experience

I had previously heard of this event and the amazing cause, nonetheless, I had never participated in the walk. This year was different – my professors were quick to let us know that the CYC Program was raising money for this event and were hoping to get students to not only raise money but participate in the walk, which piqued my interest, resulting in my friend and I attending.

I found this event an amazing opportunity to further connect with my professors, as well as meet and interact with other students within the program whom I had not met. Not only were we able to participate in this event collectively and show some CYC student presence, but this opened the gate to finding more events and ways to connect with our community and forming bonds amongst each other and our greater community.

-Abby MP (2<sup>nd</sup> year CYC Student)





## Restorative Practices Workshop

I have been offering these two-day workshops for over 15 years. I have evolved and developed the content to be more explicitly anti-oppression focused, trauma responsive and distinctly relevant for youth serving professionals.

Each group presents its own set of unique group characteristics and dynamics. This is what makes it always exciting for me! It is never the same and the richness of the diverse perspectives deepens and enriches the experiences for everyone.

The unique feature of this group is that there were all three years of Seneca's CYC program as well as CYC alumni present. There was also significant international representation in the group.

It created a space for mentoring, sharing and role modelling as well as a safe space for those less inclined to speak. This is the invitational power of circles. Participants engage as their comfort level allows. Over two days the process does its work and brings forth what is the best in each of us!

Seneca has nurtured this opportunity over the years and created an opportunity that is well used by the participants and augurs well for their roles as future CYCP leaders in the field.

What goes around comes around!

-Rick Kelly

### Student Experiences

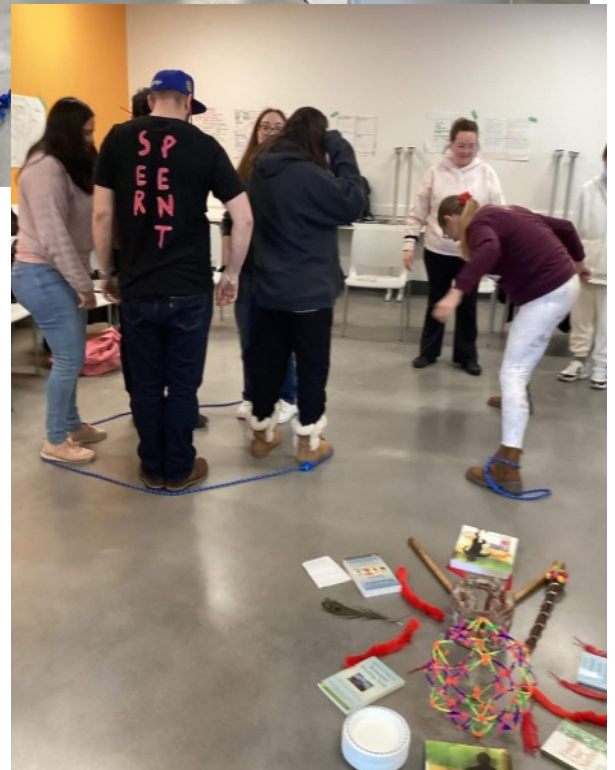
The Restorative Practice workshop was inspiring and illuminating. Every future Child and Youth Care Practitioner should not miss the opportunity to attend if given the chance. Rick was such an amazing facilitator.

-Ambar C F (3<sup>rd</sup> year CYC student)

Going into the workshop I was unsure what to expect. Rick Kelly was truly amazing delivering the content and keeping the workshop interesting throughout the two days.

The biggest take away from the two days for myself was, "*Punishment is an eye for an eye*". We focus on punishing child not because of their behavior but due to our reactions to their behavior.

Jessica B. (2<sup>nd</sup> year CYC student)



# Humber College

## **A spectacular evening of Child and Youth Care research: Humber's BCYC students showcase their thesis projects**

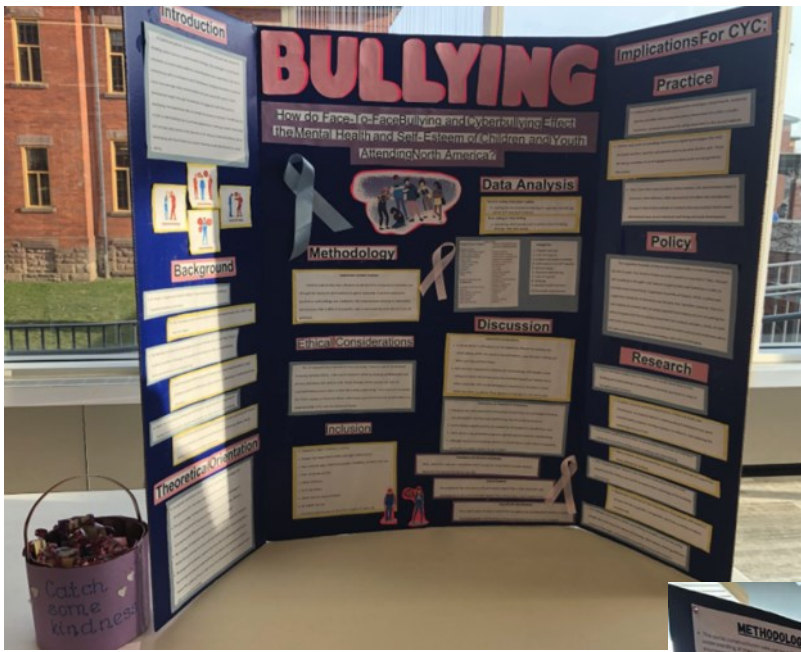
What does it mean to do research in the field of Child and Youth Care? What are some of the most pressing issues in the field today? These questions were reflected through the hard work of the 4th year students in Humber's Bachelor of Child and Youth Care program, who showcased their own original research at an event held on April 10th at Humber College-Lakeshore campus. This event, which was attended by faculty, administration, peers, family, and friends of the students, highlighted a wide array of important topics in the field of Child and Youth Care, including practitioner burnout, anti-Black racism, spirituality, bullying, intergenerational conflict, identity formation, social media pressure on young adults, mental health, disabilities and accommodations, human trafficking, LGBTQ++ experiences, and the impacts of COVID-19 on young people.

The students' research projects illustrate the culmination of several research courses covering qualitative design and academic writing, as well as their two thesis courses, through which the students engaged with their own research interests to plan and implement an original qualitative project using their choice of either interviews or content analysis.

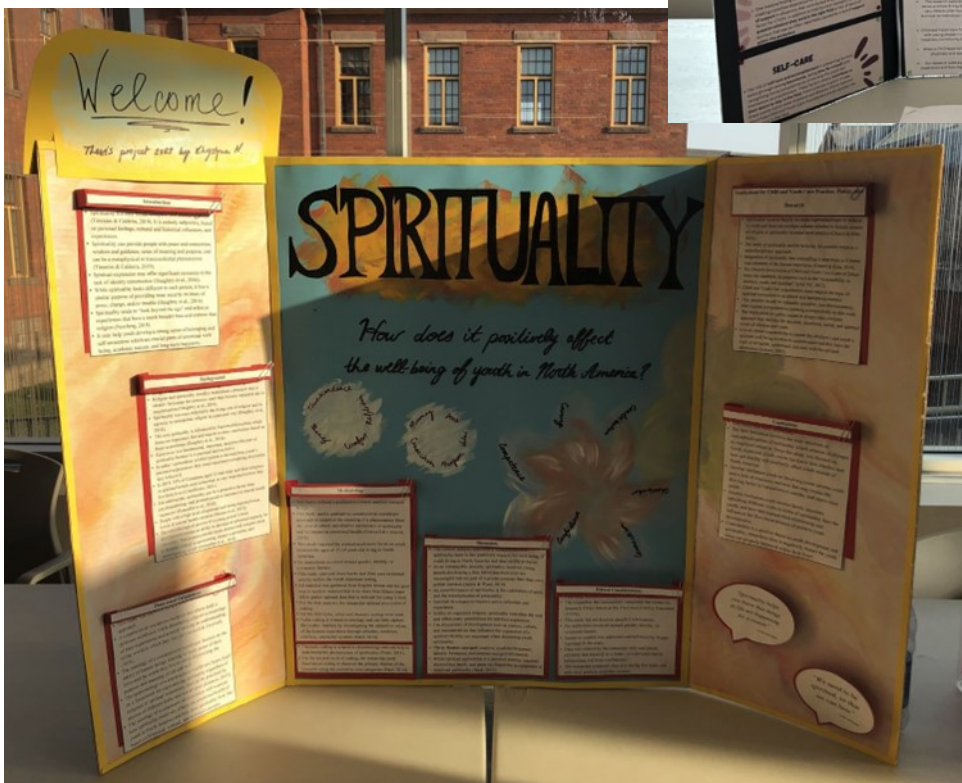
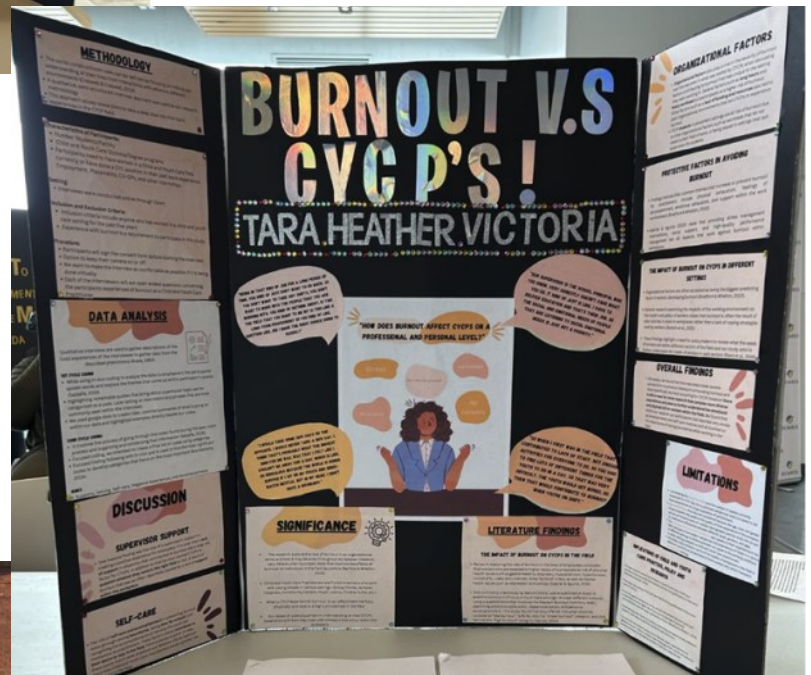
As 4th-year student Shanika Bowes indicated when sharing her work on the barriers faced by youth with disabilities, the processes of collecting and analyzing data revealed important learning for "practitioners to better understand needs of young people." This commitment to improving the lives of children and youth was echoed by several other students, who look forward to extending their research through future pursuits like graduate study and the initiation of projects in their professional contexts.



From left to right: Professors Katherine Sloss, Janet Seow, Simran Kaur, and Cristina Guerrero



Check out the gallery of photos from the event, which features some of the students' projects.



# Accreditation Updates

by **Wendy Weninger, Accreditation Coordinator**



WOW another academic year is almost complete! It is hard to believe that another class of CYC graduates are ready to soar, faculty are finishing up this term and preparing for the next one, many programs are engaging in rich discussions and action plans regarding quality enhancement, and attention is focused on all things linked to CYC post-secondary education. Thank you all for your efforts in striving for excellence in CYC post-

secondary education!

This has been another busy year supporting programs engaged in the accreditation process. Connecting with enthusiastic program faculty is always enjoyable. Seeing faculty model relational practice as they move through the accreditation process, requiring an abundance of reflective practice, is rewarding! Congratulations to programs who have achieved accreditation status, and continued encouragement to those working through the process.

No doubt the CYCEAB accreditation process is time consuming and requires resources outside of one's teaching requirements. We are unique to many other discipline's accreditation processes due to the level of reflection required vs. compiling and summarizing supporting documents. I have received feedback about how rewarding the end goal of receiving accreditation status is, as through the 24 month process, programs were able to identify more clearly their strengths, align goals, promote themselves within their institution, learn about each other at a deeper level, and come together to celebrate success. That is indeed encouraging!

CYCEAB delivered a variety of professional development opportunities this academic year through both webinars and Member Meet-Ups. Thank you to our presenters and hosts! In our promotional "posters", an emphasis has been made to identify the link between the topic and what is required as programs work through various sections of the Self-Study.

It is hoped programs that are accredited, and those looking to become accredited in the future, will use the information from these sessions to assist in delivering high quality CYC post-secondary education. I encourage as many of you as possible attend these sessions as you are able. If anyone has ideas for future sessions – either as a potential presenter or suggested topics/presenters – or wish to learn more about any topic linked to CYC post-secondary education, please share your ideas with CYCEAB at

[admin@cycaccreditation.ca](mailto:admin@cycaccreditation.ca) All ideas to help support programs further are appreciated!

This spring the Board of Directors, in conjunction with the Standards Development and Implementation Committee, will complete its annual review of the accreditation documents (FAQ, Accreditation Process Chart, Application Form, Self-Study Guide and Site Review Guide) with the goal of completing revisions in time for an August 15 posting to the website. Programs looking to a fall 2023 application (September 15 deadline annually) are encouraged to review the documents on the website now, knowing they must follow the versions that will be updated with a 2023 effective date. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this.

Programs that may be interested in a fall 2023 application, or even a year or two into the future, are encouraged to connect with myself as the Accreditation Coordinator, at their earliest convenience. I can assist in exploring potential application timelines and answer any questions about readiness and the process. If desired, we can meet virtually with faculty and/or administration at a convenient time. My key responsibility is to support programs through the process from pre-application to final accreditation decision by the board, so starting the conversation early is definitely beneficial. Thank you to programs that have already initiated this discussion.

In closing, please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have about the accreditation process or components of the Self-Study or Site Review Guides. I can be reached easiest via email at [wendy.weninger@outlook.com](mailto:wendy.weninger@outlook.com)

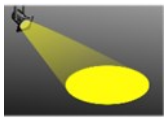
Finally, a HUGE THANK YOU to all faculty and administration in our CYCEAB member programs. What you do each day to support students and the profession is greatly appreciated!

-Wendy Weninger  
CYCEAB Accreditation Coordinator

## Congratulations!

A big congratulations to the Child and Youth Care program at University of Fraser Valley who recently achieved accreditation!





# Board Spotlight

## Meet one of our newest board members, Shelly Currie!

Shelly Currie (she/her)

Lives in Mi'kma'ki -the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People (also known as Nova Scotia).

Shelly is a Certified Child and Youth Care Practitioner, certified through the Child and Youth Care Certification Board (CYCCB). She has a Bachelor's Degree in Child and Youth Care Study and a Master's Degree in Education - both from Mount Saint Vincent University.

Shelly spent 15 years working in community-based practice. She started her career working front lines with children youth and families, and then moved into supervisory roles managing volunteers, student placements, and staff within community organizations. She is now a faculty member in the Child and Youth Care diploma program at Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) and is truly honored to be able to work alongside aspiring Child and Youth Care Practitioners every day. She started at NSCC on a part-time basis in 2016 and moved into a full-time role in the heart of COVID 19 in July of 2020.

Shelly and her husband Mike have two sons, ages 14 and 11. She's proud to drive "mom's taxi" around town taking her kiddos and their friends to basketball practices, games, and the odd stop for slushies & McDonalds fries!! She's an active PTA member at her kids' schools and participates as much as she can in community activities with her family.

Shelly sits on the Board of Directors for Chebucto Connections, a community development agency where she used to work. She's passionate about Child and Youth Care Practicum and represents the East Coast on the Practicum Committee of the CYCEAB.

In 2022 Shelly presented at two conferences:

-CICan Conference- presented with esteemed colleague, Kelly Shaw, and a first year CYC Student where they offered a presentation titled, *Child and Youth Care Diploma in a Blended, Hyflex, Project Based, Cross Campus, Authentic Assessment Format*

-National CYC Conference in Canmore, AB- presented with CYCEAB's Practicum Committee where they offered an interactive presentation titled, *Child and Youth Care Practicum: Past, Present & Future*

Shelly is excited to have recently joined the CYCEAB as a board member and looks forward to contributing to their mission of excellence and quality child and youth care education in collaboration with colleagues and leaders in the field from across Canada and the globe.



## **Fun facts about Shelly:**

**Fave podcast:** CBC's Now or Never and This American Life

**Fave pastime:** Thrifting- she has a passion for fashion- please always ask her about her latest thrift "find"

**Fave CYC textbook:** Child and Youth Care in the Field, A Practicum Guidebook by Carys Cragg

**Fave Sport:**

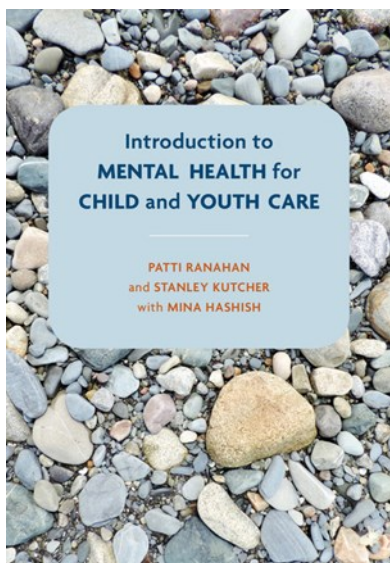
To watch: Basketball (especially if her kids are playing)

To play: Pickleball

# Resource Review

## **Introduction to Mental Health for Child and Youth Care**

**By Patti Ranahan and Stanley Kutcher  
with Mina Hashish**



Our work as child and youth care practitioners centers around supporting young people and families, and they can often times be impacted by mental health concerns. This introductory text is "specifically designed to meet the professional practice needs of child and youth care practitioners" as described by the publisher, Canadian Scholars.

Sheva Leon, a faculty member at Mohawk College, describes the book as "a well laid out text that delivers on what it promises; an excellent introduction to Mental Health using a CYC lens. It touches on key aspects of mental health literacy and includes follow up resources that are great to bolster class discussion. A great resource for CYC classrooms."

**For more information, visit the publisher's website:**

<https://canadianscholars.ca/book/introduction-to-mental-health-for-child-and-youth-care/>



## AN INVITATION

Are you doing something cool in CYC education? Are you facing a challenge in the field? Do you have CYC news to share?

**We want to hear from you!**

Please consider writing something for our next newsletter.

**Email [admin@cycaccreditation.ca](mailto:admin@cycaccreditation.ca) to submit an article.**



# CYCEAB Be Part of the Team!

## Committee Member Recruitment

Are you passionate about CYC  
Post Secondary education?  
Do you want to be part of the  
field as it changes?  
We want you!

Child and Youth Care Educational  
Accreditation Board of Canada is  
always looking for committee  
members! From research to  
policy to education.

We actively seek members that  
reflect the people CYC  
practitioners engage with each  
day, in classrooms and  
community.

The CYCEAB supports the  
inclusion of all people and works  
to promote the diverse  
communities we teach, practice,  
and live within.

Contact :  
[admin@cycaccreditation.ca](mailto:admin@cycaccreditation.ca) to  
sign up or for more information





  
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