

WINTER 2024

Child and Youth Care Educational Accreditation Board of Canada



Image by [Alain Audet](#) from [Pixabay](#)



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 region to share the work that goes on within their programs.

This newsletter is focused on the **West region**. We have membership from the Western from the following:

- Douglas College
- Lakeland College
- MacEwan University
- Medicine Hat College
- Mount Royal University
- Red River College
- Saskatchewan Polytechnic
- University of the Fraser Valley
- Vancouver Island University

Enjoy the submissions from Mount Royal University, Vancouver Island University, and members of the CYC Alberta Council of Academic Transfer committee!

Our next newsletter will focus on our **Central and Northern regions**. Please consider submitting something for our spring newsletter to admin@cycaccreditation.ca

Upcoming Events

**EDUCATION DAY
JUNE 4, 2024**



The 2024 [National CYC Conference](#) is fast approaching.

We are looking for people who are passionate about CYC Education who would like to present on:

- **The Impacts of Artificial Intelligence in CYC Education, Training and Practice**

And/Or

- **Considerations, supports and impacts for international CYC Students.**

The theme of the conference is “ally-ship , from the heart”. We are hopeful that the discussions on Education Day will connect and reflect this theme.

If you are passionate and interested in either of these two themes and would like to present at Education Day, please send us:

- Your name
- Your current position job (including students) or connection to CYC Education
- 250-500 words about what you would like to present and why
- The length of time your topic and presentation would be
- Any other relevant or pertinent information

Please submit this to admin@cycaccreditation.ca

By Friday, March 15, at 5:00 pm

<https://cycaccreditation.ca/>

Accreditation Updates

by Wendy Weninger, Accreditation Coordinator



Hello to all CYC faculty, programs, and partners!

It is hard to believe another academic year will soon be drawing to a close. So much time has been spent preparing for course delivery, engaging with students in a variety of learning spaces, delivering course content, completing student evaluations, seeking feedback on course delivery, and connecting with community partners. I know there were rich hallway and meeting discussions about CYC education, professional practice, students (excelling, challenging and struggling), processes, barriers, successes... and the list is endless. I am hoping that as you look back on your experiences this past academic year, you take time to reflect on all that has happened, all you have learned, and that you have a plan moving forward to make the 2024-2025 academic year better for yourself, the students and your program. After all, isn't this the process of ongoing reflective practice and quality improvement - personally and professionally?

Applying the expectation of ongoing quality improvement to post-secondary CYC programs, CYCEAB makes two important statements about the value of accreditation (found on the CYCEAB website):

- *High quality education is a result of sound evaluation and continuous improvement. Accreditation is a process for regular, rigorous review of program goals, pedagogies, and outcomes. It facilitates dialogue and education within and across CYC programs about innovation and quality, assisting with decision-making about where and how to situate a school, department, or program.*
- *Accreditation contributes to high quality education and consistently high standards of professional practice in a variety of manners through the potential functions it may perform including:*
 - *a vehicle for organizational change;*
 - *a method to achieve sound quality assurance practices;*
 - *a system for demonstrating accountability to a) children, youth, and families, b) students, and c) child and youth care educators;*
 - *a mechanism to create a community of practice among child and youth care education programs.*

But what do **accredited programs** (see the listing of accredited programs on the CYCEAB website) say about the benefits of accreditation? Read on!

In my role as Accreditation Coordinator supporting programs engaged in the process, I have had the privilege of rich conversations with program faculty that have shared comments including the following:

- The value of the faculty team gathering together for a common purpose, sharing (maybe for the first time) their own strengths, identifying their perspectives of CYC post-secondary education and professional practice, and working together to critically examine all aspects of their program.
- “The process allowed us the opportunity to take an in-depth look at what we do, why we do it, what we need to stop, and things we can start to do to make our program better. We never would have done this to the same extent otherwise.”
- “While working on the Self-Study and reaching out to other departments in our institution to help compile some of the documents and information we needed, we were able to educate them on our program and the CYC profession. This opened the door for these departments to now seek us out for ideas, opinions, involvement in committee work and important institutional decisions. If we never reached out, we might still be a silo that nobody knows about.”
- Being accredited has allowed some programs the “leverage” they require to maintain components of their program that would otherwise have been eliminated or reduced (shared examples include maintaining CYC-specific curriculum, practicum hours and supervision models, hiring of CYC educated faculty vs from other disciplines). It has also allowed some programs to “gain” components in order to ensure ongoing compliance to CYCEAB requirements and meet elements of their program specific Quality Enhancement Plans (examples shared include new or renovated learning spaces, budgets for new initiatives, ability for faculty and students to be funded to attend CYC conferences).
- The process encourages the involvement of partners in the examination of all program components - students, alumni, community agencies, PACT/Advisory Committee members, institutional departments and administration. All programs mention how valuable these relationships are for faculty, students and the program.
- “Becoming accredited has allowed us to promote ourselves at a higher level to prospective students and employers who hire our graduates. We are definitely taking a leadership role with this in our province - why wouldn't we want to celebrate and share our accomplishments?”
- Christine Slavik from University of the Fraser Valley summarized their experience so eloquently, stating that the process allowed them the “opportunity to learn, affirm, strengthen, enhance, leverage, connect, share, work together, celebrate.”

Indeed, the CYCEAB accreditation process is time consuming, requires resources, and is an extensive amount of work. It is hoped that the process is transparent while being rigorous and thorough. My role is supporting programs through the process so you feel it is manageable, relevant and useful ... that the benefits and celebration at the end make the journey worthwhile.

Please feel free to connect with me at your convenience if you have any questions about the benefits of accreditation for your program.

Best wishes for a successful end to the 2023-2024 academic year!

-Wendy Weninger, CYCEAB Accreditation Coordinator

Reflections on Education Day - Ontario Provincial Conference

Special contribution by David Connolly and students, Seneca Polytechnic—Toronto, ON.

Ontario Association of Child and Youth Care - 2023 Belong Conference

The Ontario Association of Child and Youth Care recently held the provincial conference at Niagara College. The theme of the conference was Belong 2023! It included the Educator's day on Wednesday with a wine and cheese in the evening. The conference officially started on Thursday morning with opening keynote speaker - Dr. Beverly Jean, Assistant Professor in the School of Child and Youth Care at Toronto Metropolitan University. Dr. Jean's keynote focused on fostering healthy racial identity development amongst Black children and youth and the role of anti-oppressive praxis for child and youth care practitioners working with marginalized children and their families.

The closing keynote speaker was Crystal Doolittle, who is the current Director of Family Well Being with the Association of Native Child and Family Services Agencies of Ontario (ANCFSAO). Crystal's keynote provided an Indigenous world view and discussed how to build advocacy approaches with the people we service. Crystal comes from the Mohawk Nation and is a member of the Six Nations of the Grand.

The keynotes were excellent, and they were followed by interactive workshops that provided opportunities for sharing, learning, and connection. It was wonderful to have such a large group of Seneca Child and Youth Care students and faculty participating in the conference. A special thank you to Seneca's Alumni Infinity Program that helped sponsor the CYC students through the Student Experience Program.



Left to Right - Jenn D., Abby MP, Coura N. (President of OACYC), Hiromi P., Paula DLG, Dina G., Jenn W., Devon K., Poornima K., Chris D. and David C.

Seneca Polytechnic was presented with our certificate of accreditation from Charlotte Serpa, CYCEAB President, during the Educator's Day. Sue Bond and David Connolly were on hand to accept the certificate.



Left to Right - Sue B., Charlotte S. and David C.



Student testimonials from attending the conference:

“I want to share this experience to my fellow students because I've just witnessed an internalizing event in my journey as an international student and I believe that when you involve yourself or take opportunities in events related to CYC like the conference is helpful and so much growth is infused.” – Hiromi P.

“The generosity exhibited by all the professionals in the field, including the chance to meet Michael Burns and Rick (Kelly) again, left me in an awe. The conference filled with valuable workshops allowed me to acquire new ideas. The days spent with my professors and participants from second and third years were a perfect blend of learning and fun. Being part of the Seneca CYC family and surrounded by like-minded people instilled in me a sense of belonging. Each moment was an opportunity for collaboration and growth.” – Poornima K.



Left to Right - Devon K., Poornima K., Michael Burns, Hiromi P. and Chris D. Michael is the author of *Time In* and *Healing Spaces*, two texts used in Seneca's CYC program.

“As a 3rd year student that is getting ready to graduate and thinking about continuing school and what career paths I could go into, this conference was definitely eye opening and helped me more towards getting an idea of what I'd love to be doing as a CYC in the future. I can say for sure that this was an amazing experience, not only to network with other CYC's but also to bond and get closer to the other CYC's in our program that are in 2nd year.” – Paula DLG

Mount Royal University

Bachelor of Child Studies Student Society

Contribution by Jill Thompson, Mount Royal University - Calgary, AB.

Our student society, made up of a blend of Child and Youth Care Counsellor (CYCC) and Early Learning students to represent the Bachelor of Child Studies (BCST) degree, have been busy with volunteer and advocacy work. Since the start of the academic year, these student volunteers have contributed many hours to the following events:



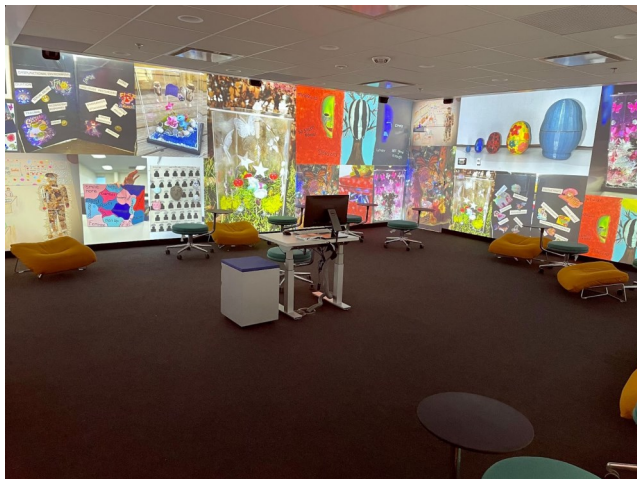
- CIRCLE**
Represents the **wholistic** approach to our work
- CENTRE**
Represented as the **support alongside the child** who is the **centre of all we do**
- SPIDER WEB**
Represents the teachings of the **ANI TO PISI** by **Late Elder Clement Bear Chief**.
- BURGUNDY**
For our **graduation stole**
- ORANGE**
Represents our **commitment to truth and reconciliation** with the Indigenous children, youth, families, & communities we work with

- created a new logo (see image for description)
- volunteered with MRU's *Journey to Indigenization* week
- volunteered with MRU's annual pow wow
- volunteered on National Child Day to raise awareness
- hosted a holiday donation drive with the MRU dance team for *Made by Momma*



Immersion Studio

In a 1st year mental health course, CYCC students recognized how mental health concerns manifest in similar or different ways, depending on the setting in which they occur. Students also learned that a variety of factors contribute to mental health concerns and the importance of looking beyond the diagnostic label. Students provided visual art pieces as a representation of a mental health - either hand-crafted, clay, paper, digital, tapestry, sewing, textile, clothing, accessory, button, collage, or storybook. Proof of what was created via picture was put together in a collage exhibition format in the 360 Immersion Studio in the Mount Royal Riddell Library.



Ani to Pisi - Human Spiderweb

Ani to pisi (spiderweb) is a creation story shared with our program and faculty by Elder Roy Bear Chief's late older brother Clement. This fall hundreds of students and faculty came together to create a [human spiderweb](#). This was a meaningful day for our CYCC and BCST students. Please watch the video to hear Elder Roy Bear Chief explain the human spiderweb in more detail.



Simulation and Child Development Lab

Students across the CYCC program have been participating in mock role plays and simulations throughout both semesters, utilizing MRU's [Child Development Lab](#). In the lab, CYCC's can use a variety of mediums and materials to explore theory in an experiential way. Students have identified that these practical learning experiences enhance their learning and prepare them for real life scenarios experienced in the field. The culmination of these simulation experiences is a newly recorded simulation video featuring the leadership and expertise of our fourth year students. This simulation video emulates a CYCC school based program and is being used in multiple classes across the program.



Celebrating 10 Years of the Bachelor of Child Studies, 2023-2024 Fourth Year Students Capstone Showcase and Accomplishments of Past Alumni

And last but not least, current and past faculty and staff are excited to celebrate the 10-Year Anniversary of the Bachelor of Child Studies. This celebration will also showcase the 2023-2024 capstone projects and accomplishments of past Bachelor of Child Studies alumni. Celebrations will take place on Thursday, April 4, 2024. If you are a graduate of the Bachelor of Child Studies between 2014-2022, please email bcst10year@mtroyal.ca to receive more details and how to get your ticket.

Vancouver Island University

Read about how students from VIU's Child and Youth Care program are giving back to their community in a partnership course between CYC and social work students!

Article featured in VIU's blog:

<https://www.viu.ca/blog/child-and-youth-care-students-give-back-community-project>

CYC Alberta Council of Academic Transfer Committee

The CYC ACAT committee meets twice per year to discuss pertinent information regarding Child and Youth Care programs across the province and beyond. The focus of these meetings is to ensure programs are well aligned with each other so students can easily transfer from one program to another, especially from the two-year diploma programs into the four-year degree programs. Once every year or so, we review the transferability between programs and



Allen Ledyit, Lethbridge College; Derek Collins, Lakeland College; Dean Milne, Medicine Hat College; Christine Pope, MacEwan University; Michelle Briegel, Mount Royal University; Andrea Christensen, Bow Valley College; Jenny McGrath, MacEwan University; Marilyn Jerowsky, Bow Valley College in Medicine Hat, AB for the spring 2023 meeting.

update our documentation to ensure maximum alignment between the various PSI's.

We also regularly discuss and support programs looking to become accredited through CYCEAB, with those institutions who have gone through accreditation providing guidance to those who have not yet done so.

Secondarily, these meetings are of great benefit to newer or developing programs who have the expertise of the programs that have been around longer.

The CYC faculty and administrators that make up the committee are always happy to provide support to and share experience and knowledge

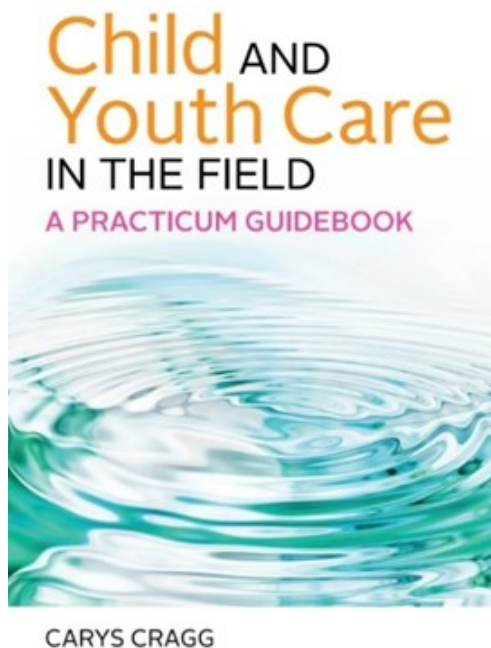
with each other. The committee members are always willing to go the extra mile in order to ensure every program is successful.

Like CYC practice, the committee is very relational and although half of our meetings are virtual, we make sure to meet every spring in person so we can enjoy an evening of socializing as well. Last spring, Medicine Hat College graciously hosted our in-person meeting where we were able to enjoy the beautiful grounds surrounding their college.

Resource Review

Child and Youth Care in the Field: A Practicum Guidebook

By Carys Cragg



Carys Cragg delivers a practical fieldwork resource guide that speaks to the real-world experience of practicum and is designed to accompany the student while they are “applying and building upon the theory and skills” acquired in the classroom. Cragg posits that how this process is facilitated is an important one that requires “critical reflection”. *Child and Youth Care in The Field: A Practicum Guidebook* is an essential tool to assist and support Child and Youth Care students as they navigate their experiential learning.

This guidebook provides an opportunity for self-reflection and personalization of learning through its engaging workbook layout. Considering the applied nature of practicum education, this learning resource provides hands-on reflective exercises, brainstorming activities, discussion questions, practice scenarios and more. Sonya Bramwell, Professor CYC Program and Field Placement Coordinator at Mohawk College, agrees, "*Child and Youth Care in The Field: A Practicum Guidebook* is easy to follow, includes both current, relevant CYC information and is applicable for CYC students preparing for the field or attending practicum."

For more information, visit the publisher’s website:

<https://canadianscholars.ca/book/child-and-youth-care-in-the-field/>





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 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 to
sign up or for more information



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