

Winter 2025

Child and Youth Care Educational Accreditation Board of Canada



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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.

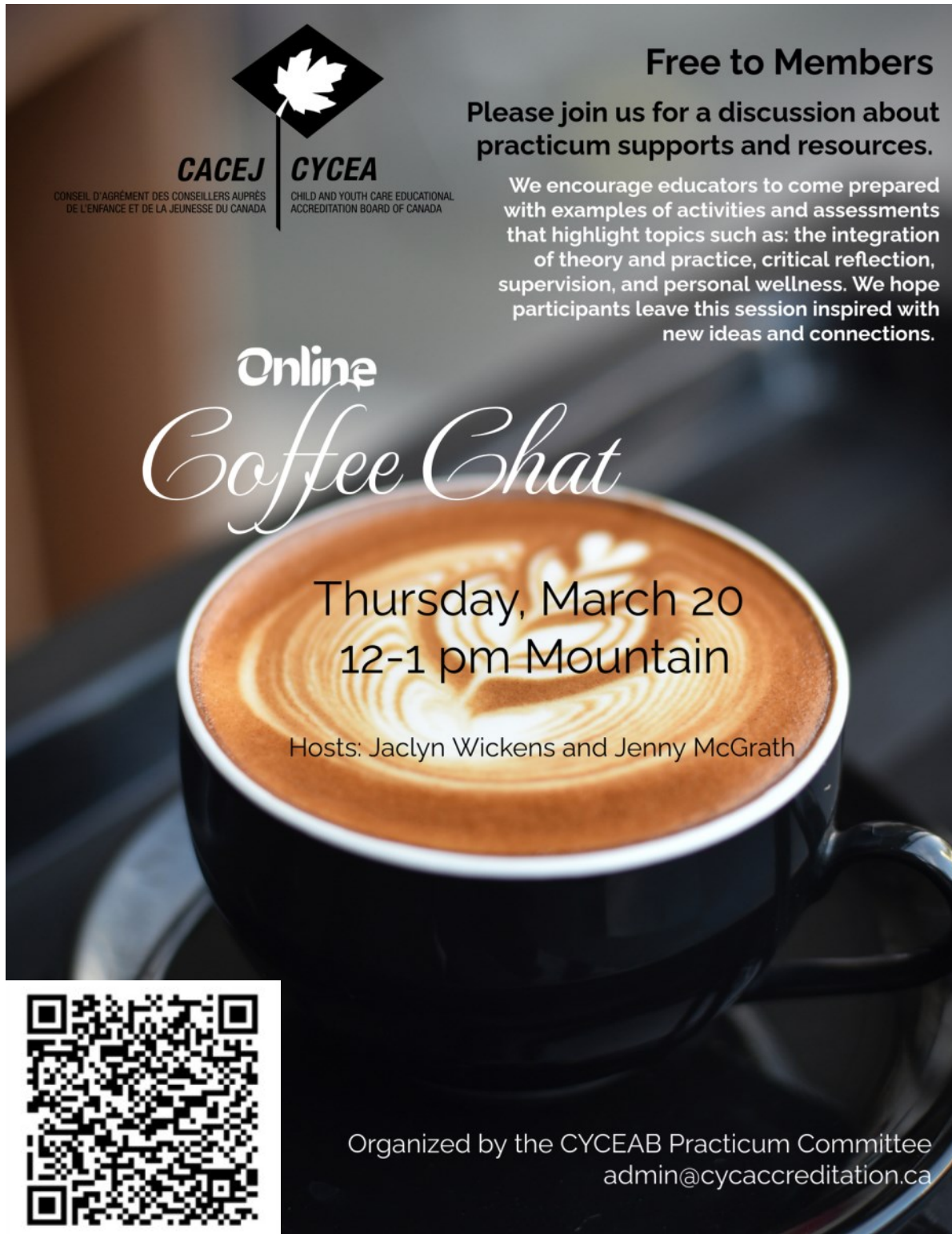
This newsletter is focused on the **western region**. We have membership from the following:

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

Enjoy the submissions from Douglas College, Lakeland College, McEwan University, and Medicine Hat College!

Our upcoming spring newsletter will focus on our **central and northern regions**. Please consider submitting something for our upcoming newsletter to admin@cycaccreditation.ca

Upcoming Events



Free to Members

Please join us for a discussion about practicum supports and resources.


We encourage educators to come prepared with examples of activities and assessments that highlight topics such as: the integration of theory and practice, critical reflection, supervision, and personal wellness. We hope participants leave this session inspired with new ideas and connections.

**Online
Coffee Chat**

Thursday, March 20
12-1 pm Mountain

Hosts: Jaclyn Wickens and Jenny McGrath

Organized by the CYCEAB Practicum Committee
admin@cycaccreditation.ca



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Please adjust to your time zone.

To register: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/91a29a38-3bdb-4c96-b06a-f449bf49c33c@56fe2d55-38f0-4ea1-94c7-21bad7f5a630>

Upcoming Events

JOIN DR. JASPREET BAL ON

*Free to Members
ONLINE

HOW TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN CYC

Thursday, April 3, 2025
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM MDT

To learn more and to register,
scan the following QR code:

April 3rd CYCEAB Webinar

This presentation will look at the context of current CYC education, the details of the Brampton International Student charter, and provide suggestions on next steps. There will be time for a Q&A.



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Upcoming Events

SAVE THESE DATES!

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF CHILD AND YOUTH CARE
BI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SHERIDAN COLLEGE'S CHILD
AND YOUTH CARE ADVANCED DIPLOMA PROGRAM



JUNE 10, 11, 12

CONSTRUCTING COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

The OACYC is proud to announce it's Bi-Annual Conference on **June 10, 11, 12, 2025** at **Sheridan College's Conference Centre on the Trafalgar Campus**, hosted by the **Child and Youth Care Advanced Diploma Program Faculty**

- ✔ Opportunities for Presentations, Panels, LandBased Workshops, Communities of Practice and Forums
- ✔ In-Person, Virtual and Hybrid Options
- ✔ Onsite Accommodations



(416) 621-4340



office@oacyc.org

OACYC BI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025






CONSTRUCTING COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE



CALL FOR PRESENTERS

The OACYC, in collaboration with Sheridan's CYC Advanced Diploma faculty, invites Child and Youth Care professionals, students, educators, researchers, and advocates to submit proposals.

»»» Key Themes «««

-  **Amplifying Voices**
Creating spaces where all perspectives are valued
-  **Sharing Experiences Across Lenses**
Encouraging the exchange of knowledge, insights, and practices from various viewpoints.
-  **The Role of Care in Child and Youth Care**
Exploring various definitions of care and care practices
-  **Breaking Down Silos**
Encouraging cross-sector collaboration, open communication, and breaking down barriers to foster holistic problem-solving and collective progress.
-  **Current Issues**
Creating spaces for learning, unlearning, reflection, and dialogue about traditional care practices and emerging trends and innovations in child and youth care.

Submit Your Proposal by **March 31, 2025**
For more information, contact conference@oacyc.org

TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL, SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW



Ontario Association of
CHILD AND YOUTH CARE
Association Ontarienne des Techniques
D'ÉDUCATION SPÉCIALISÉE



Sheridan

Upcoming Events



NOVA SCOTIA
CHILD AND YOUTH
CARE WORKERS ASSOCIATION

Rejuvenate: Renew Our Relationships

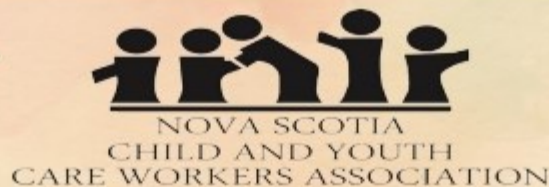
NSCYCWA Provincial Conference 2025

CALL FOR PAPERS

We are inviting contributions that will start meaningful conversations, foster professional growth, and share innovative practices. Topic suggestions include, but are not limited to:

- **Best Practices and Innovative Approaches**
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**
- **Decolonizing and/or Indigenizing Services**
- **Youth Engagement and Advocacy**
- **Trauma-Informed/ Relational Practices**
- **Activity Programming**
- **Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Work**
- **Child and Youth Care Supervision**
- **Wellness in Child and Youth Care**

Join Us in Shaping the Future of Child and Youth
Care in Nova Scotia/ Mi'kma'ki!



We encourage practitioners, researchers, educators, and students to submit and share their expertise/ experiences. Your contributions are vital in advancing our collective knowledge and CYC practice.

Submission Guidelines

Possible formats for facilitation (these are suggestions, not limitations):

1. Workshops: Interactive sessions designed to engage participants in hands-on learning.
2. Oral Presentations: Sharing research findings, case studies, or innovative practices.
3. Panel Discussions: Collaborative discussions with multiple presenters on a specific topic.

Selection Process

All submissions will be reviewed by the education committee based on relevance, originality, and applicability to the field of Child and Youth Care. Selected presenters will receive confirmation and further details by no later than May 25th, 2025, or within 7-10 business days of submission.

Submission Requirements

- Abstract: Maximum 200 words offering the Title of your workshop & summarizing your presentation's focus and objectives.
- Presenter Information: Name(s), affiliation(s), contact details (e-mail, phone number, preferred form of communication), and a brief biography (max. 150 words).
- Preferred Format: Indicate if your submission is for a workshop, presentation, panel etc
- Preferred Length: 60 minute OR 90 minutes OR 2.5 hours
- Preferred Number of Participants
- Required A/V Equipment

Deadline for Submissions: May 11, 2025

Submit your proposal, clearly organized, including all the above 'submission requirements', in a .docx or .pdf format via email to Travis.Sampson@nsc.ca with the subject line: **"Call for Papers Submission - [Your Name]"**.

For inquiries, please contact Travis Sampson: Travis.Sampson@nsc.ca.

We look forward to your submissions and to welcoming you to the NSCYCWA 2025 Provincial Conference in June!!

Accreditation Updates

by Wendy Weninger, Accreditation Coordinator



Happy spring to all CYC post-secondary educators!

It is amazing that again, the academic year

is drawing to a close sooner than we may have imagined. I hope it was a successful winter term and that if you are teaching in the spring, that all runs smoothly for you.

This time of year is exciting for CYCEAB! Two programs have recently been accredited: Holland College Child and Youth Care Worker Diploma and Humber Polytechnic Advanced Diploma (three year and accelerated). One program is completing their site review in March and those who applied in September 2024 are well underway with their data gathering and working through the various sections of the Self-Study. In the months ahead they will be looking to finalize, then submit all their documents and host their site reviews, likely in the fall. This time next year, the 2024 applicants will be awaiting final decisions on their accreditation status. We have also been communicating with programs planning a September 2025 application. They are getting set to engage in the accreditation process - and will be supported throughout it in whatever ways myself, Dianne Marcellus-Kerr, and the board can assist them.

I am always encouraged to see programs eager and enthusiastic to engage in the accreditation process for the first time. They recognize the time and commitment it will take to work through the Self-Study, and see the overall benefits will be worth their efforts. Of the eight programs who were working through the accreditation process this academic year, one was a "new-to-the-process" applicant. The other seven programs were undertaking it for the second time through because their initial accreditation status is nearing expiry (a program's accreditation status is granted for a period of 7 years). These program demonstrate continued commitment to the accreditation process as valuable recognition of their credential. They continue to dedicate time and resources to ensure currency, relevance and rigor in their curriculum and processes. Through the development and implementation of a Quality Enhancement Plan as part of the Self-Study, they are able to stay focused and accountable to ongoing self-improvement and strive to further display their program's excellence with continued accreditation status.

Whether a new applicant program or engaging a second-time-through, programs value the benefits of accreditation. They see the importance of providing education to individuals who will eventually provide direct service to children, youth and families.

Further value comes in areas such as the following:

Enhanced Program Recognition & Credibility

Accreditation signals that a program meets rigorous standards specific to child and youth care education, reinforcing institutional credibility.

Accreditation provides external validation of a program's alignment with the CYC profession, distinguishing it from standard internal program reviews.

Attracting Prospective Students

Accreditation assures students that their education meets the expectations of the profession, supporting their long-term professional success.

Upon achieving accreditation status, programs receive the CYCEAB logo and an accreditation statement for promotional use, reinforcing program distinction.

The ability to promote that a program is accredited is a strong recruitment and marketing tool for programs, at a reasonable cost given the accreditation fees are for seven years of accreditation status.

Alignment with Sector Expectations & Professional Networks

Accreditation supports broader efforts to standardize competencies and professional expectations across post-secondary institutions offering CYC education.

Being part of an accredited network can provide opportunities for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and partnerships within the child and youth care profession.

Data gathering conducted during the accreditation process compiles feedback from employers and field partners, strengthening the connection between education and professional competency.

Institutional & Faculty Benefits

The accreditation process is a structured framework for continuous quality enhancement, guiding curriculum review and program improvement.

The site review process involves consultations with students, faculty, alumni, and employer partners, offering valuable insights regarding the move to professional practice, beyond what institutional surveys typically provide.

CYCEAB reviewers, who are experienced CYC educators and practitioners, provide meaningful external perspectives on educational practices.

The accreditation process fosters a deeper institutional understanding of the CYC program's role in shaping competent professionals.

As always, if your program is interested in discussing the accreditation process further or is looking towards a future application, please feel free to contact me at your convenience. We can definitely set up an opportunity to meet.

All the best for the remaining weeks of the academic year!

-Wendy Weninger

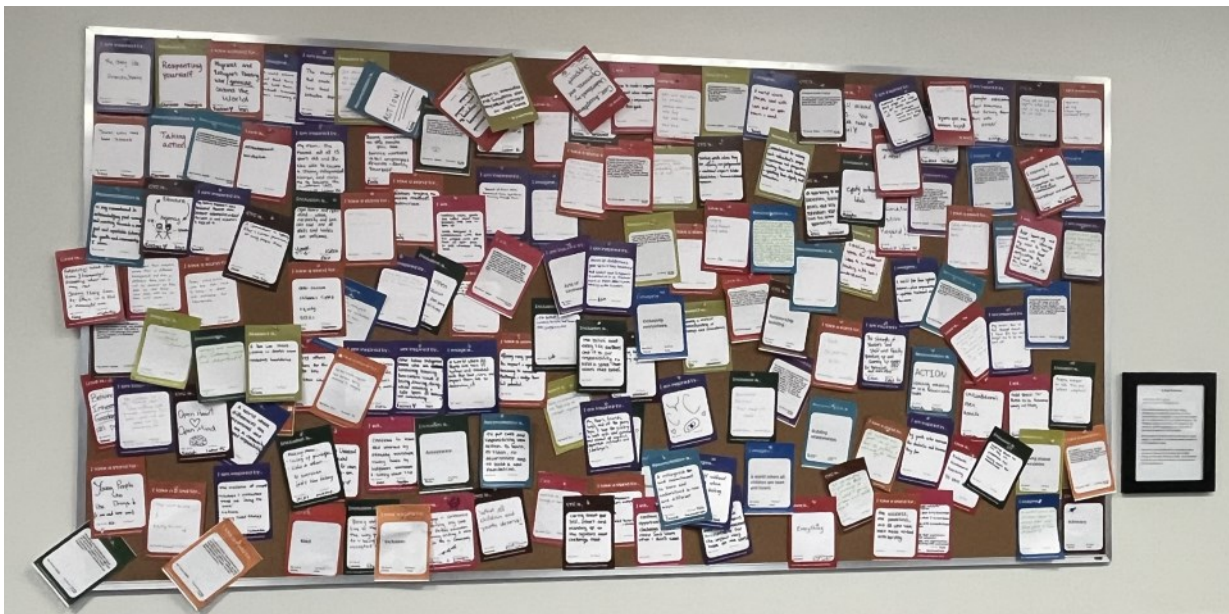
CYCEAB Accreditation Coordinator

Douglas College

Hello! We are Yvonne Gomez and Tiffany Sosnowski, the current co-coordinators of the Child and Youth Care program at Douglas College which is located on the unceded traditional and ancestral lands of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the ǵícǵý (Katzie), q̓wá:nǵǵǵ (Kwantlen,) k̓wík̓wǵǵǵ (Kwikwetlem,) x̓mǵǵθk̓wǵǵǵ (Musqueam), q̓iq̓éyt (Qayqayt), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), scǵwǵǵǵ (Tsawwassen) and sǵlilwǵǵǵ (Tsleil-Waututh) Peoples. We both identify as settlers on the lands on which we currently live, work and play. Yvonne comes from the treaty and traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and was raised by immigrant settlers from Spain. Tiffany grew up on the traditional territory of the Anishinabek Nation, which includes the Ojibway, Odawa, and Pottawatomie peoples.

We have been working together as co-coordinators for the last four years and we were both able to attend 2024 Child and Youth Care National Conference in Winnipeg, “Ally-Ship: From the Heart.” We were both incredibly inspired by the numerous opportunities for learning, connection and contemplation. This inspiration was especially ignited as we walked the halls of the Human Rights Museum. It was in this space where we had some time to reflect on the CYC value of relational practice and its intersection with social justice both on individual and program levels.

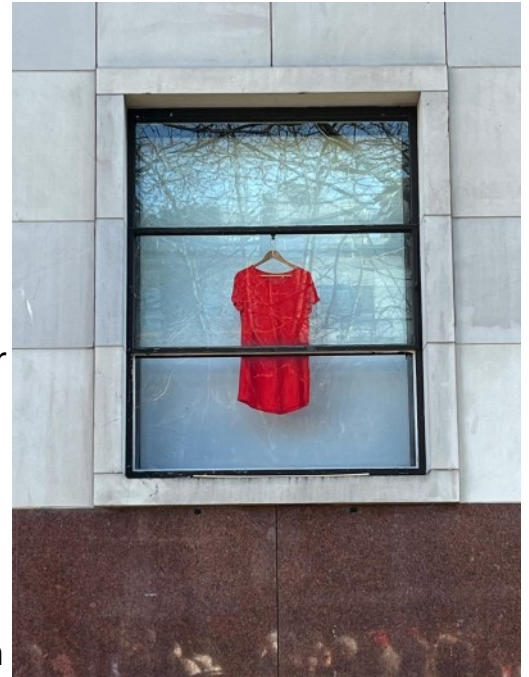
As we neared the end of our time at the museum, we both had an “a-ha” moment as we entered an interactive space where visitors were encouraged to leave behind messages of change, hope and challenge inspired by what they had experienced during their time at the museum. This interactive activity both encouraged and challenged us to take what we had experienced back to our campus. We decided that we were going to invite our incoming CYC students’ space to offer their personal commitment to social justice as they embark on their education at Douglas College.



At our September new student orientation, we introduced them to Shannen’s Dream (<https://fncaringsociety.com/shannens-dream>) which highlighted social justice and education. This introduction (available to faculty and all students) led to the creation of a living declaration board which now lives in one of our CYC classrooms. This collective action brought all our students and faculty together and centered the idea that social justice matters and that we all have a place to be involved. Our hopes was that this activity would set the stage for other opportunities to be involved in acts of social justice at a local level.

This year, for the first time, Douglas College CYC faculty and students collectively organized to participate in the Women’s Memorial March held each year on Feb. 14 in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside. This march is to honour the lives of the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls who are taken from their families due to gendered violence, poverty, racism and colonialism. This is a march of remembrance as well as a call to action to continue to fight for justice.

As we gathered at the start of the march, we were witness to the power of personal connection. Right before the march began, we heard someone in front of us say “it’s a great day for a march, just watch, the eagles will come.” And they came. In my (Tiffany) 20 years of living on the lands colonially known as Vancouver, I have never witnessed eagles soaring above the downtown core, yet on this day there was a felt sense of connection, and we were told that the ancestors were with us. This march reminded us of our interconnectedness, both human



and non-human alike and had a powerful impact on all of us who attended.

Our hope as a program is to continue these commitments to social justice and to offer ourselves and our student’s space to reflect on both personal accountability and collective responses. We want to continue to expand our education and actions through our courses and encourage student leadership in these learnings and events.



Lakeland College

Lakeland College hosted their first Wellness Symposium featuring student-led learning. The event was arranged by student organizers, like second-year child and youth care counselling student Ann Hewko, as part of her program's practicum placement.

"I think addressing wellness and burnout has become increasingly important since Covid," says Hewko, who went on to share that "wellness can look differently for everybody, you need to focus on what's going to help you and work for you to make sure that you're okay and that you're happy so you can help take care of others."

The symposium was made possible from fundraising initiatives like Feast on the Farm, an annual fundraiser supporting student-led learning initiatives.

You can find the full article here: <https://www.lakelandcollege.ca/news/student-led-learning-at-the-wellness-symposium.aspx>





CYCC Student Retreat

CHILD & YOUTH CARE COUNSELLOR

The CYCC program strives to provide our students with experiential learning opportunities. Several of these opportunities occur through field trips, which allow our students to apply their theoretical knowledge in a meaningful, practical, and engaging manner.

CYCC Student Retreat: The annual CYCC student retreat has been a key component of our program for over 20 years. Our last student retreat took place at Eagle's Nest Ranch on August 30, 2023. Faculty and students spent the day connecting and participating in various activities, including an exhilarating opportunity to conquer a high ropes course and zip-line! Aspects of teamwork, collaboration, risk-taking, and reflective practice take place utilizing experiential learning. These skills sets are representative of CYCC practice, and woven throughout the program's curriculum. CYCC students report that their experience was meaningful, supportive, and transformational in developing newfound peer relationships as well as providing a sense of professional identity. The CYCC student retreat proves to be a valuable event in welcoming new students to the program, as well as reacquainting returning students to the academic year.

CYCC Calgary Trip: The CYCC student club, along with faculty support, helped organize a Calgary field trip in March, 2023. The trip provided students with the opportunity to expand their appreciation of core CYCC principles. They toured Hull Family Services, an agency that offers a variety of treatment centers for children and youth. Other sites included the Calgary Young Offenders Centre, Ronald MacDonald House, and Luna (formerly the Sheldon Kennedy Calgary and Area Child Advocacy Centre) which provides programming for abused and neglected children.

CYCC Saamis Tepee Field Trip: To honor the traditional territories of the First Nation People of Treaty 7, Treaty 4, and Métis people who share a deep history with this land, second year students met at the Saamis Tepee, which overlooks the Saamis Archaeological Site in the valley of Seven Persons Creek. Brenda Mercer, Founder and Manager of White Horse Rider Co. and local storyteller, alongside Davies Smith, provided a history of this land and the importance of preserving and protecting this site and Mother Earth. Students were taught how to take care when harvesting sage and made medicine bags to hold tobacco to be given to the earth in gratitude/thanks for the harvest they participated in, learning about the value of reciprocity. They also learned about the people, the rich animal and plant life, and the connection to the number four: four seasons, four directions, and four medicines. Students were encouraged to find meaning in land acknowledgments, to commit to educating themselves further, and to deepen cultural relations by respectfully working alongside Indigenous families, and communities.

CYCC Youth Court Field Trip: Learning about legal systems affecting youth is important knowledge for Child and Youth Care Counselors. Our students travel to the Medicine Hat Provincial Court Building annually to observe a Youth Court in process. This provides a unique experience to witness the legal system in action and debrief the day with the sitting Honorable Justice of the Courts, the Crown Prosecutor, and the Duty Counsel.

MacEwan University



As part of a Global Perspectives in CYC at MacEwan University, students from the Bachelor of Child and Youth Care and Bachelor of Early Childhood Curriculum Studies programs embarked on an international and interdisciplinary study tour in February 2025 to visit Ireland, Northern Ireland, and Scotland.

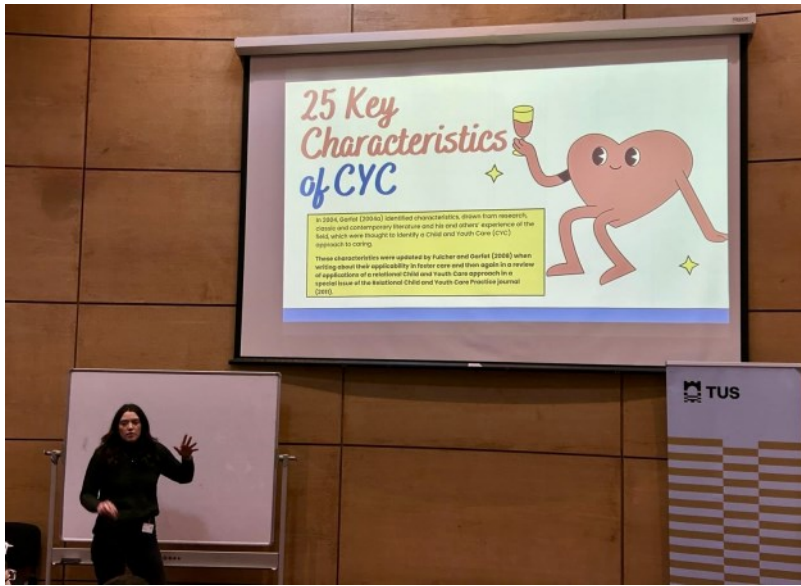
In Ireland, MacEwan students presented at a symposium and attended classes at The University of the Shannon in Athlone, completed a community service project with Localise Youth Volunteering in Dublin.

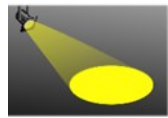
In Northern Ireland, students signed the Peace Wall in Belfast, and learned about some of Ireland's socio-political history that continues to impact young people and families today.

In Scotland, students had the opportunity to visit Kibble Specialist Services & Support for Young People, and the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow to deepen their understanding of social policy informed by the UN Children's Rights framework.

The 13-day itinerary included several cultural tours and time for students to enjoy each city in their own way. By the end of the trip, many lasting connections were made within the group!







Board Spotlight

Meet one of our newest board members, Emmie Henderson-Dekort!



Emmie is an Assistant Professor in the Bachelor of Child Studies (BCST) degree program at Mount Royal University. Her research interests and expertise focus on children's and youth's rights, participatory action research, and amplifying the voices of young individuals.

Emmie is deeply committed to the principles outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), and she actively integrates these principles into her teaching, research, and contributions to CYCEAB.

Emmie's work emphasizes the importance of equipping practitioners, educators, and young individuals with a deep understanding of the UNCRC to ensure that children's rights are respected and implemented across diverse contexts. Emmie also brings extensive practical experience working directly with children and youth, which informs her academic and

professional contributions, ensuring a strong connection between theory, practice, and advocacy for children and youth.

Fun facts about Emmie:

Fave podcast:

UNICEF Research—Innocenti Podcast

Fave pastime:

Spending time outside in the mountains

Fave CYC textbook:

Children's Rights in Professional Practices with Children and Youth by Tara Collins

Fave Sport:

Snowboarding

Coffee Chat!

Field Practicum Committee

On February 11, 2025, the CYCEAB Field Practicum Committee held their first coffee chat of the year, hosted by Ken Brill and Sean Flaherty from Mohawk College in Hamilton, Ontario.

This was a very exciting event, as it provided us with the opportunity to connect with different colleagues from different programs across Canada.

The focus on the discussion was on trends that are prevalent in providing education for our students in our CYC programs. We discussed challenges that would arise with offering paid placements to students, staffing shortages, quality of supervision in the community, challenges finding placements, and student mental health among other items.

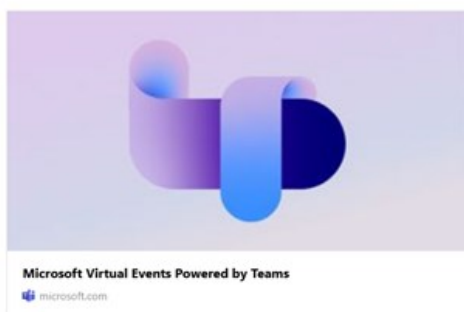
Items that were discussed will be further explored during future webinars and coffee chats. Participants in the coffee chat agreed that having the opportunity to share and discuss resources would be valuable.

Please stay tuned for future coffee chat dates.

Our next Coffee Chat will take place March 20, hosted by Jaclyn Wickens from NorQuest College and Jenny McGrath from MacEwan University in Edmonton, Alberta! The theme will be supporting student practicums.

Check out full details on Instagram and Facebook!

Click below to register:



|OR scan the QR code below:





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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