

# Spring/Summer 2025

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



Photo by [Jeffrey Eisen](#) on [Unsplash](#)



# Let's hear from you!

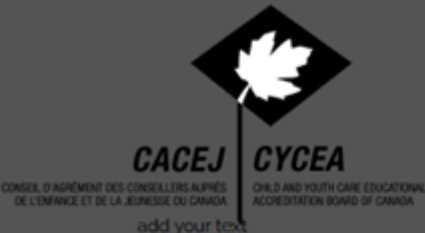
This newsletter is intended to be a networking resource, first for the members of CYCEAB, and second for the broader public interested in the educational practice in the field of Child and Youth Care. Our board wants to celebrate the wonderful work that is occurring within the member programs. Over the 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 **central and northern regions**. We have membership from the following:

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

Enjoy the submissions from Centennial College, Mohawk College, Seneca Polytechnic, and St. Clair College!

Our upcoming fall newsletter will focus on our **eastern region**. Please consider submitting something for our upcoming newsletter to [admin@cycaccreditation.ca](mailto:admin@cycaccreditation.ca)



# CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2025-26

**ONLINE EVENTS**

Limited paid opportunities are available. See online form for information.

**Calling all CYC educators, researchers, and practitioners—help shape the future of Child and Youth Care education!**

These online events aim to foster professional growth among Child and Youth Care educators by offering a dynamic forum for sharing CYC-relevant topics, exchanging educational practices, and engaging in interactive discussions.

**Submit your proposal by August 31  
using the online form:  
Webinar Proposal**

Topics must be aligned with the mission and vision of CYCEAB.  
Visit [cycaccreditation.ca](http://cycaccreditation.ca) to learn more.

Please direct questions to Dianne at [admin@cycaccreditation.ca](mailto:admin@cycaccreditation.ca)

Use the link above or the QR code to fill out the form!



# Strategic Planning 2025

## Update—March 2025



We've made great progress on developing CYCEAB's first-ever strategic plan which will be shared with our members at the 2025 Annual General meeting. For more information on the journey and the milestones we are reaching, click on the following link: [Strategic-Planning-Road-Map.pdf](#)

Progress to date includes a new mission and vision, reaffirmation of our values, data collection, and assessment of the external and internal environments. A big thank you to my board colleagues and staff who are contributing many hours and to the many volunteers, CYCEAB members, and others who participated in the data collection phase of our work plan. The input we received is invaluable in helping us identify strategic direction.

We are setting our strategic direction for the next five years and are identifying the critical or strategic priorities that focus on the changes that need to be made or the areas that need to be addressed. Once our priorities are set, we will establish goals and develop tactics and action plans to achieve these goals. Another update will be available in April.

At the last AGM, we rolled out our new mission and vision and you can find them on the CYCEAB website home page.

The vision we have set captures our best hopes for how our community and the lives of those we ultimately serve would be positively impacted by the successful accomplishment of our mission to rigorously accredit post-secondary CYC programs and advocate for the Child and Youth Care profession. Stay tuned to learn more about our strategic priorities and what we learned in assessing our internal and external environments.

-Rebecca

Rebecca Stiller, MSc, CCYC, PhD Candidate President, CYCEAB



# Child and Youth Care Educational Accreditation Board of Canada

## Call for Applications for the CYCEAB Board of Directors

Applications are welcome to fill a seat in each of the regions: Western, Central and Northern, and Eastern. Qualified candidates will be presented for election in all three regions at the November 2025 AGM.

There will be a vacancy in the Western Region by November 2025, and there are qualified directors eligible to renew for a second term in the other two regions.

### Application Deadline September 1, 2025

Submit your CV/resume with cover letter to [admin@cycaccreditation.ca](mailto:admin@cycaccreditation.ca).

Elections will be held at the AGM to be held in November 2025.

- Are you an advocate for quality education in child and youth care?
- Are you interested in decision-making and collaborative work in educational accreditation?
- Have you thought about how you might contribute to the future of CYC education?

CYCEAB is embarking on an exciting time as it looks to the future and the needs of the CYC post-secondary community and the profession.

If you have questions, contact Dianne at 587-220-7557 or [admin@cycaccreditation.ca](mailto:admin@cycaccreditation.ca).

### Time Commitment

- One 2-hour meeting per month during the academic year.
- Two 3-hour planning sessions in April/May.
- No scheduled board meetings in July and August.
- Committee leadership and participation with volunteers across Canada – approximately 8-10 hours over the academic year.

All meetings are virtual.

### Eligibility Criteria

- Individuals who are 18 years or over.
- Affiliated with a post-secondary institution or a child and youth care association or program.
- Ability to serve a term of three years.

Learn more about CYCEAB and its Board of Directors at: [Bylaws](#).

Directors serve an initial term of three years and are eligible to apply for a second three-year term. A board director from each geographic region is elected annually.

Applicants must demonstrate an affiliation to a post-secondary institution or a child and youth care association or program.

More information can be found at: <https://cycaccreditation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/CYCEAB-Board-Position-Description-June-2022.pdf>.

The Board of Directors is comprised of nine directors, four of whom are appointed as officers to Executive Committee positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer.



# Accreditation Updates

## by Wendy Weninger, Accreditation Coordinator



WOW it is hard to believe we are closing out on another academic year!

A huge *thank you* to all CYC educators for your endless hours of hard work - planning, teaching, grading and supporting students, and all the “other related duties” you have performed over these past months. Please take some time to celebrate your accomplishments and share your successes.

When you begin to move into the planning stages for the next academic year, I wish to draw your attention to a few things related to CYCEAB:

- If your program is discussing the possibility of accreditation, please reach out and we can set up a time to meet. I can answer any questions you may have about the process, the right time to engage in accreditation, and what resources may assist your team with understanding the various steps. I can even connect you with faculty from other accredited programs who have identified that they would love to speak with interested programs about their own experiences.
- If your program is looking to accreditation farther out than the next year or two, again, please reach out. We can meet to discuss how the accreditation *Standards* (found at the start of each section of the Self-Study Guide) might apply to any program development you may be exploring. We can discuss challenges you may have, assist with information you can share with your administration about the benefits of accreditation, and troubleshoot any areas you are uncertain about.

- Look for communication to be shared about upcoming webinars and facilitated discussion events organized by CYCEAB for 2025-2026. This past year has been a great example of sessions directly related to CYC post-secondary education such as Artificial Intelligence, supporting international students, trends and current issues in practicum, practicum supervision, ungrading, and student mental health. These topics are directly connected to questions in the *Engaging the Evidence* listings in the Self-Study Guide. Additionally, if there is a topic you are interested in presenting, a topic you think is relevant that should be presented, or a topic you would like to discuss with other educators, please let CYCEAB know.
- The accreditation documents are reviewed and updated annually. We are winding up the process soon for the edits to the fall 2025 documents. (A huge thank you to reviewers and Recommendation Panel members, recently accredited programs, members of the Practicum and Standards Development and Implementation Committees, and CYCEAB board members for the valuable feedback you have provided!) Any programs applying for accreditation by September 15, 2025, will be able to find these updated 2025 versions on the CYCEAB website by August 15, 2025. A reminder: Programs are to use the versions of the documents that correspond to the year in which they make their application.

As always, if you have any questions, please reach out and I will assist you any way that I can.

Wishing you all a safe, restful, and relaxing summer break. You deserve it!

- *Wendy Weninger*  
CYCEAB Accreditation Coordinator





# Centennial College

On March 25th our 2nd Year students in Centennial's CYC program in Toronto, ON held a biannual fundraiser marketplace, bake sale, and raffle to raise funds for Native Child and family Services in Toronto. We also had live music!

This 'Be the Change' project is part of our Advocacy and Children's Rights course.

We are proud to announce that we raised \$2230!

We would like to thank Centennial College and the community for their support. Special thanks also go out to Metro, Tim Hortons, Starbucks, LUSH, Progress Campus Book Store, Valumart, NFD inc, Cineplex, Strides Toronto, Centennial College Athletics Department, and Indigo Chapters for their kind donations.





# St. Clair College



During the 2024-25 school year, the CYC program at St. Clair College in Windsor, ON started a Jack.org chapter. Jack.org is a charity dedicated to youth mental health. Its mission is to empower young people to support each other and advocate for mental health awareness. Our chapter aims to help support the students of St. Clair College and make them aware of the available resources and support. Several of our second-year CYC students planned and implemented an event during the exam week at St. Clair to help support students through this stressful time. Our second-year class wrote notes of encouragement and support, and then the notes were handed out during exam week along with healthy snacks to St. Clair students.

One of our student ambassadors described the event: "Our team handed out notes to passing by students and offered advice and kind words to those who were struggling. We got great feedback from the student body."



# Seneca Polytechnic

Seneca Polytechnic recently hosted the 3rd Annual York Region Anti-Human Trafficking Conference 'Knowledge is Power: Educate to Eradicate.' The conference was an opportunity for parents, caregivers, and youth to learn and gain valuable knowledge, tools, and resources. Parents and caregivers learned how to safeguard their children from human trafficking, while connecting with community members to further protect and empower their communities.

The conference provided parents, caregivers, and youth an opportunity to talk directly with 20 plus community members including Victims Services of York Region, Cedar Centre, York Children's Aid, York Regional Police, York Region District School Board, Crime Stoppers, York Region Transit, and 360Kids, among others.



The adult sessions included hearing stories and information from the mother of a survivor, valuable information from the York Region Police, and an opportunity to ask question to an expert panel on the topic of human trafficking.

The youth moved through four different sessions focused on developmentally appropriate topics related to healthy relationships, and keeping themselves safe. The youth workshops were led by BridgeNorth, One Child, York Regional Police, and Dnaagdawenmaga Binnoojiiyag Child and Family Services.

Seneca King Campus Atrium





Seneca CYC faculty and students

Seneca's Child and Youth Care faculty and students played a significant role in the planning and delivery of the conference. During the opening ceremonies, John Ciccone, a founding member of the conference committee, and a faculty in Seneca's Child and Youth Care program, was posthumously honoured as a community leader, educator, and advocate. It was John's vision that brought this conference to Seneca with the support of the Child and Youth Care program.



Funding for the conference was provided by the Department of Justice Canada. Donations were also provided by Aurum Manufacturing, Top Tier Authentics and Zorzitec.

-Submission by David Connolly, Professor in the CYC program at Seneca Polytechnic.

Plaque in memory of John Ciccone



# Education Day – Ontario Association of Child and Youth Care Provincial Conference

The Ontario Association of Child and Youth Care held the 2025 provincial conference June 11 to 14. The theme for the conference was ‘Constructing Communities of Practice’ which was a focal point for Education Day, facilitated virtually by the CYCEAB. Educators, students, and dedicated professionals in the field from across the province gathered to connect, foster community, and share experiences and practices.

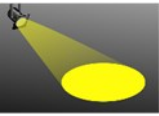
Dr. Wolfgang Vachon, professor at Humber Polytechnic in Toronto and CYCEAB Education Committee member, facilitated the lively conversations during Education Day along with conference organizers and faculty from Sheridan College’s CYC program, who hosted the conference.

Topics of discussion included the ethical use of Generative AI (such as ChatGPT), ways to amplify and maintain the CYC practitioner identity in the field, supporting students with complex health needs and maintaining accountability to the profession, the impact of the Post-Graduate Work Permit to post-secondary institutions in Ontario, and the comparison of program length (three-year programs, accelerated programs, and two-year/four-semester programs).

Educators shared updates from their respective programs regarding the quickly changing landscape for Ontario colleges and universities. Enrollment numbers, staffing changes at program and institution levels, and reflections on the future hopes for CYC education in Ontario and nationally.

Participants held rich discussions, and there was a strong sense of passion and connection among everyone attending!





# Board Member Spotlight

## Meet our Finance Committee chair, Jess Morris!



Jess is a dedicated member of the Child and Youth Care Accreditation Board of Canada (CYCEAB) who plays a vital role in supporting and strengthening Child and Youth Care education. Jess brings passion and expertise to their committee work, helping to advance professional standards and accreditation processes across Canada.

### About Jess:

Years in CYC Work/Education: 19

**Key Areas of Focus:** accreditation, curriculum development, student engagement, community connections

### Words of wisdom:

“I saw you being the way you are, heard you saying the things you felt, and I learned to be me” - Ann Arbour.

### Fun facts about Jess:

- During COVID I started a fencing business with all women workers - “Beaver Fences.”
- Outside of work I am always in a hat.



"It's been a wild three years. I didn't really know what to expect. I'd never been to post-secondary before, so it's my first experience. But yeah, it was a blessing! It was a really eye-opening experience. I had a lot of support the entire time. I was pretty scared when I first started out, not really having had an experience like this before. But it was all positives! The relationships that I built with classmates and my professors, all of it, was really amazing!" -Matthew J.

"Having placement as part of the Child and Youth Care course was so rewarding. Being able to experience the field and be challenged to step out of your comfort zones, while having access to support is such a great experience!" -Jayden F.

## SOME WORDS FROM MOHAWK COLLEGE

"The three years of the CYC program was an experience made with love and connection."  
-Abena K.

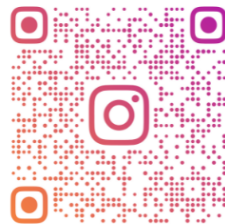




# *Celebrate CYC students!*

Showcase student awards  
accomplishments, and  
incredible work in our  
newsletter and on social  
media!

**Tag us on  
Instagram Facebook, and Twitter!**  
**use #CYCEABcelebrates**



CYCEACREDITATION



Submit a picture  
and short blurb!



# 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 standards 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

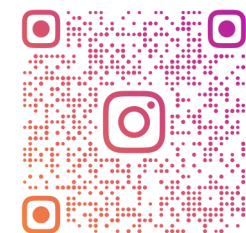




**CACEJ** **CYCEA**  
CONSEIL D'AGRÈMENT DES CONSEILLERS AUPRÈS  
DE L'ENFANCE ET DE LA JEUNESSE DU CANADA  
CHILD AND YOUTH CARE EDUCATIONAL  
ACCREDITATION BOARD OF CANADA

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