

Spring/Summer 2026

Child and Youth Care Educational Accreditation Board of Canada



Photo by [Gabrielle Hensch](#) on [Unsplash](#)



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

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 central and northern regions. We have membership from the following:

- Cambrian College
- Centennial College
- George Brown College
- Georgian College
- Humber Polytechnic
- Lambton College
- Seneca Polytechnic
- Sheridan College
- St. Clair College

Enjoy our contributions from:

- Centennial College
- Georgian College
- Sheridan College
- St. Clair College

Our next newsletter will focus on our eastern region. Please consider submitting something for our fall newsletter to: admin@cycaccreditation.ca



CYCEA

CHILD AND YOUTH CARE EDUCATIONAL
ACCREDITATION BOARD OF CANADA



BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Inclusiveness, engagement, reflective practice, and commitment to quality



Quality Assurance

Enhance the quality of education in Child and Youth Care.



Practice

Influence the future of CYC practice



Building Relationships

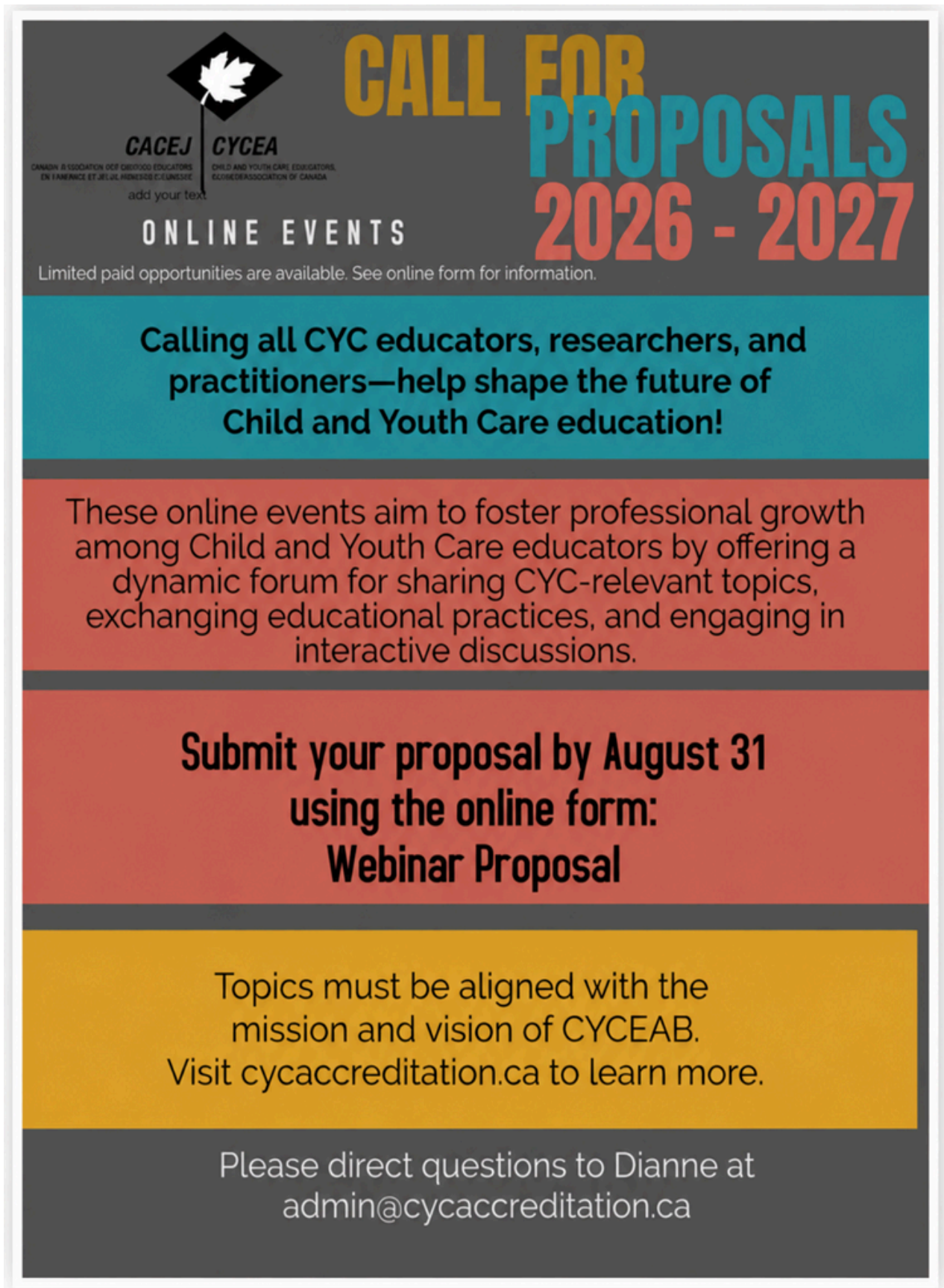
Build relationships with colleagues from across Canada and beyond



Developing Leadership

Showcase your program as a leader in the teaching of CYC

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. Consider becoming a member today! Email admin@cycaccreditation.ca for further information.



The graphic is a vertical poster with a dark grey background at the top. On the left, there is a logo for CACEJ (Canada Association of Child and Youth Educators) and CYCEA (Child and Youth Care Educators Association of Canada), featuring a white maple leaf inside a black diamond shape. Below the logo, the text 'add your text' is visible. To the right of the logo, the words 'CALL FOR PROPOSALS' are written in large, bold, yellow and blue letters, with '2026 - 2027' in large, bold, red letters below them. Underneath the main title, the text 'ONLINE EVENTS' is written in white. Below that, a smaller line of text says 'Limited paid opportunities are available. See online form for information.' The middle section has a teal background with the text 'Calling all CYC educators, researchers, and practitioners—help shape the future of Child and Youth Care education!' in black. The next section has a red background with the text '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.' in black. Below that, a red background contains the text 'Submit your proposal by August 31 using the online form: Webinar Proposal' in black. The next section has a yellow background with the text 'Topics must be aligned with the mission and vision of CYCEAB. Visit cycaccreditation.ca to learn more.' in black. The bottom section has a dark grey background with the text 'Please direct questions to Dianne at admin@cycaccreditation.ca' in white.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS
2026 - 2027

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 to learn more.

Please direct questions to Dianne at admin@cycaccreditation.ca

Fill out the online form: <https://forms.gle/sYmbqUD2KPgcSAet6>

Accreditation Updates

by Wendy Weninger, Accreditation Coordinator

WOW, the 2025-2026 academic year is now completed (or almost completed, for those with spring/summer terms)! Hoping that the year was successful for each of you, however that may be defined.



This time of year is often seen as the time for faculty members to wind down, take a breath after busy academic terms, and spend time reflecting on what was, and what will be upcoming in the fall when the new 2026-2027 year begins. In the past, CYC programs that were looking to engage in the accreditation process would be anticipating their fall application for accreditation, which previously were only accepted annually in September.

This year CYCEAB “opened” the application timeline so that programs could begin at a time of year that worked best for them. I am very excited to share that four programs chose to apply in spring 2026 rather than wait until September. Each of these programs identified that spring allows their team to start the process when they are freer of other obligations, especially compared to the typically very busy month of September. These programs are using the “new” CYCEAB program-specific SharePoint site that “chunks” each of the sections of the Self-Study Guide into more manageable pieces compared to the previous format of one large document. The Engaging the Evidence questions are all pre-populated and the inclusion of a table for the Engaging the Evidence documents are both appreciated aspects of this new format.

This past year, CYCEAB has been supporting one program to pilot the SharePoint site format. We are happy to note that this program is very close to submitting their Self-Study in this new way, and I cannot wait to get feedback from them about both the Self-Study completion and submission process. Ongoing continuous improvement for CYCEAB!

A reminder that if your program is interested in chatting about the accreditation process, regardless of if this is in your program's immediate future or down the road, please feel free to contact me at your convenience at wendy.weninger@outlook.com

Finally, please join me in congratulating two programs that were granted accreditation status this spring. Cambrian College's 3-year Advanced CYC Diploma and Medicine Hat College's CYC Counsellor Diploma have both successfully achieved accreditation status and are now celebrating this important milestone.

In closing I wish each of you the opportunity for a well-deserved summer break, time for rest and relaxation doing what you love with those who mean the most to you. Enjoy and take care!

-Wendy Weninger
CYCEAB Accreditation Coordinator

Congratulations!



**Cambrian
College**



**MEDICINE HAT
COLLEGE**



Centennial College

Child and Youth Care program

Every semester, second-year students in the in-person Child and Youth Care Program at Centennial College host the 'Be The Change' project at Progress campus, through our Advocacy and Children's Rights course.

This semester, the fundraising event included a bake sale, raffle, a used items sale, and accepted donations from the college community.

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our students during the fundraising event, we raised \$2,000.00 to support Impact 'n Communities and Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital's Capes for Kids program!



Georgian College

Child and Youth Care program

Child and Youth Care students presented research-informed posters that challenge common behavioural labels applied to children and youth who have experienced trauma. Drawing on trauma-informed, relational, and strength-based frameworks, presenters reframed behaviours as meaningful communication shaped by survival, attachment, and systemic context.

The posters invited attendees from the college and community to engage with creative visual inquiry, applied practice strategies and evidence-based responses that promote dignity, safety, and resilience in children and youth across care settings. Their advocacy reflected a strong understanding of trauma-informed, strength-based, and relational approaches, as well as an awareness of how systems and environments impact young people. Students demonstrated professionalism, empathy, self-awareness, and a genuine commitment to ethical practice.



The following graduating students were presented with the "Trauma-Informed Practice and Inquiry Award:" Lauren Butts, Joel Bier-Hewitt, Olivia Kennedy, Kassandra Passer, Willow Porter-Hillier, Tasha Kozole, Vittoria De Luca and Mary Hackett, pictured (left) with Jessica Morris, CYC Program Coordinator.

Sheridan College

Child and Youth Care Program

Embedding Restorative Practices in Child and Youth Care Education

In response to the 2022 Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU) revisions to the Child and Youth Care Program Vocational Learning Outcomes (VLOs), Sheridan College's Child and Youth Care program introduced a dedicated Restorative Practices course designed to strengthen students' knowledge and application of anti-oppressive, relational, restorative, and healing-centred approaches. The course was intentionally developed to align with the growing emphasis on relationship-centred engagement, conflict resolution, harm repair, and community building within contemporary Child and Youth Care education.

Sheridan was the first Child and Youth Care program in Canada to offer a dedicated Restorative Practices course that combines theory with experiential pedagogy. Rather than simply learning about restorative approaches, students actively engage in them. Throughout the semester, students participate in restorative circles, facilitate restorative conversations, practice circle keeping, and complete applied assessments that explore how these approaches can be integrated into professional practice.

A particularly meaningful component of the course is the Restorative Mural Assignment, which invites students to creatively represent both historical and contemporary restorative principles and their relevance to Child and Youth Care. Together, these learning experiences move restorative practices from abstract concepts into lived, embodied practice.

Continued on next page

Sheridan College

Child and Youth Care Program

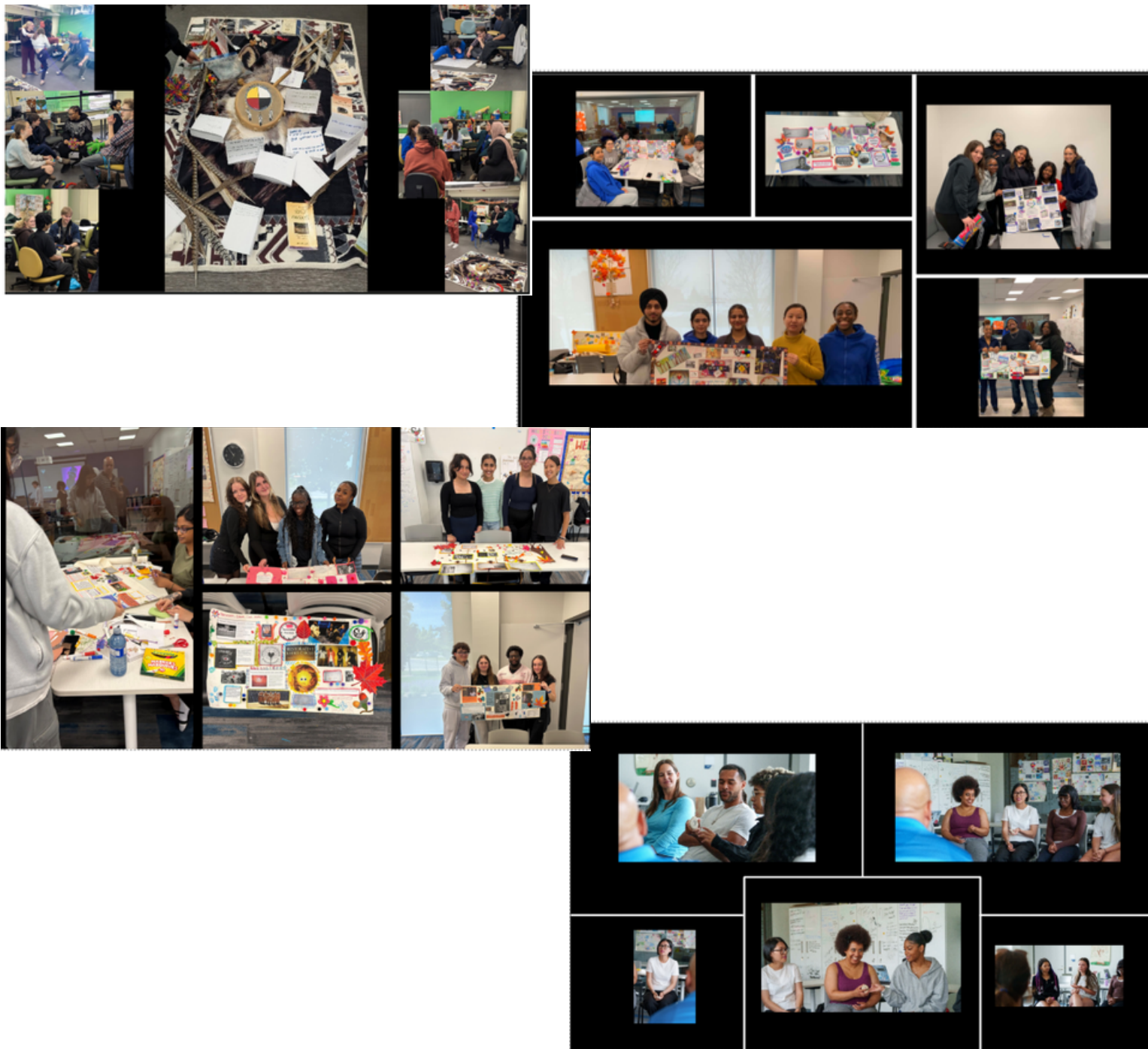
By emphasizing voice, belonging, accountability, and collective healing, the course supports students in developing the competencies required to work alongside children, youth, families, and communities in ways that foster connection and meaningful relationship repair

To further enhance student learning, Sheridan also offers an optional one-day "Completing the Circle" training following successful completion of the course. Facilitated by Rick Kelly, Executive Director of Just Us: A Centre for Restorative Practices, the workshop provides students with opportunities to deepen their skills in relational engagement, restorative conversations, circle keeping, and understanding the needs and emotions underlying young people's actions. Participants receive a Certificate of Participation and practical resources to support their ongoing development as practitioners. This one-day certification is similar to the training Rick has been offering to Seneca for many years.

Rick Kelly was instrumental in supporting the development of the course and helping bridge restorative theory with authentic field-based practice. The impact of this partnership continues to extend beyond the classroom. In June, Sheridan Child and Youth Care faculty members Julie Jaglowitz and Kate Hann will conduct a virtual interview with Rick Kelly exploring the development of the course, student learning outcomes, and the impact of integrating restorative practices into Child and Youth Care education. The interview will be incorporated into Rick Kelly's presentation at the World Child and Youth Care Conference, providing an opportunity to share this innovative educational initiative with an international audience.

Sheridan College Child and Youth Care Program

pictures from the Completing the Circle Training:



St. Clair College

Child and Youth Care program

Faculty at St. Clair College recently asked the students to send in pictures of themselves at placement. One of the suggestions for CYC week was to have students show their appreciation to their placement supervisor/mentor and capture it with a photo. Best said in the words of one of the our second year students:

"Earlier in the year, I was mostly focused on learning the expectations, avoiding mistakes, and trying to do things the "right" way. As placement continued, I took on more responsibility, received more direct feedback, and experienced situations that challenged my professionalism, communication, and facilitation skills. Some of those moments were uncomfortable and honestly involved bigger mistakes than I had made earlier in placement, but they ended up being some of the most impactful learning experiences for me. They pushed me to reflect more deeply on my practice. Through those experiences, I've become more professional, more reflective, and more confident in what I'm doing. Overall, I feel much more comfortable and natural facilitating groups now than I did at the beginning of placement."



CALLING FOR BOARD APPLICATIONS

CYCEAB is seeking committed, community-minded individuals to join our Board of Directors. As a federally incorporated non-soliciting not-for-profit, we operate under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act (CNCA) and are grounded in our mission to advance excellence and ongoing quality improvement in post-secondary Child and Youth Care education through accreditation and advocacy. Directors are essential to this work, providing stewardship, strong governance, and support for the organization's long-term well-being.

WHAT THE BOARD DOES

- Provides strategic leadership and oversight
- Ensures financial and legal accountability
- Upholds mission-focussed stewardship
- Approves policies and monitors organizational performance
- Participates in committee work aligned with strengths and interests

TIME COMMITMENT

Term: Three years, with option to apply for a second term

Board Meetings: 6-8 per year
(September-June)

Committee Work: Varies throughout the year, with some periods being lighter and others requiring more focused attention depending on ongoing projects.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We welcome candidates who bring **curiosity, integrity, and a commitment** to excellence in Child and Youth Care education. Strong candidates demonstrate:

- Strategic thinking and sound judgement
- Respectful communication
- Commitment to equity, inclusion, and community-centred leadership
- Reliability, accountability, and preparedness

ADDITIONAL SKILLS/EXPERIENCE

We aim to build a balanced board and are especially interested in candidates with experience in any of the following areas:

- Community engagement, partnerships, or communications
- Sector-specific knowledge related to CYC and post-secondary accreditation
- Digital media expertise/graphic design

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, please email your letter of interest and CV or resume by **September 1, 2026**, to CYCAccreditation@outlook.com.

For more information, visit: <https://cycaccreditation.ca/opportunities> or call Dianne in Alberta at 587.220.7557 ext

Committee Member Spotlight

Frincess Arbour

Meet Frincess, the newest member of the CYCEAB's Communications Committee!!

About Frincess

Communications Committee
Member

Years in CYC Work/Education:

8 years (including placement)

Key Areas of Focus:

CYC Education, research, and
advocacy.

Why I Joined the CYCEAB:

The Child and Youth Care program at Centennial College was life-changing for me. It helped me see the power of meaningful CYC education and the impact it can have on students. That experience made me excited to gain field experience and eventually teach, so I could give the gift of learning back to future CYCPs. I joined CYCEAB because I value the role post-secondary education plays in shaping the future of CYC, and I wanted to be part of something bigger that supports the growth and quality of CYC education.



Words of Wisdom:

Maximize your time wisely. Every day is an opportunity to learn something new!

Fun Facts:

I am a livestream seller, a former makeup artist, and someone who will absolutely look up a Kobe Bryant quote when I need motivation. Kobe is my ultimate "get better, keep going" guru.

CYCEAB

Webinar

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Understanding Vicarious Trauma & Compassion Fatigue

Nurturing Resilience for Child and Youth Care
Practitioners in Ontario's Mental Health Sector

Your Hosts:
Adrien McKenna &
Christina Carr
From
Conestoga College

COMING SOON

Fall 2026 — Stay Tuned for the Date

WHAT YOU'LL GAIN

Recognize the Signs

Identify vicarious trauma and compassion fatigue in yourself and peers

Evidence-Based Tools

Self-care strategies and boundary-setting skills rooted in best practice

Build Resilience

Practical frameworks for sustainable, ethical care in high-demand settings

Case Studies

Real-world scenarios to bridge theory and practice in CYC contexts

Interactive Learning

Reflective exercises and group discussion to deepen engagement

Professional Growth

Strengthen competence and reflexive practice as a CYC professional

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Child and Youth Care Practitioners, students, educators,
and professionals in Ontario's mental health sector

Presented by CYCEAB · Advancing ethical, compassionate CYC practice
cyceab.ca · Registration details coming fall 2026



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!

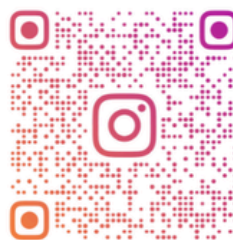
Please consider writing something for our next newsletter.

Email admin@cycaccreditation.ca to submit an article.

Celebrate CYC students!

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

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



CYCEACREDITATION

Submit a picture
and short blurb!



CACEJ

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

CYCEA

CHILD AND YOUTH CARE EDUCATIONAL
ACCREDITATION BOARD OF CANADA



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

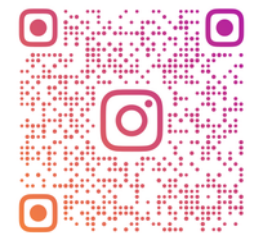





GACEJ **CYCEA**
CONSEIL D'AGRÈMENT DES CONSEILLERS AUPRÈS
DE L'ENFANCE ET DE LA JEUNESSE DU CANADA CHILD AND YOUTH CARE EDUCATIONAL
ACCREDITATION BOARD OF CANADA

Follow us on social media!

@cyceducationaccreditation



CYCEACREDITATION

