

## In this issue...

- Paying tribute MLA, Manmeet Bhullar
- Alberta Early Years Conference 2016: save the date
- National Mentoring Symposium extends deadline for presentation proposals to December 15, 2015
- The results are in: Working with and engaging with marginalized youth and families to make positive changes
- National Mentoring Symposium 2016: save the date
- Prairie Child Welfare Consortium 2016: Request for presentation proposals and save the date
- Report card on family poverty
- Alberta Early Years Conference seeking presentation proposals before December 18, 2015
- Social Innovation Ecosystem Mapping: Preliminary findings for Edmonton
- A children's observatory for Canada: An update from UNICEF Canada and access to prototypes
- ED-Ucate: an opportunity to better understand eating disorders



## In Memory of Manmeet Bhullar

It was with a heavy heart that we learned of the passing of the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Calgary-Greenway, Manmeet Bhullar. His passing was a terrible tragedy and our thoughts and prayers continue to be with his family.

Mr. Bhullar worked tirelessly in service for all Albertans. First elected in 2008, he proudly served as Minister of Infrastructure, Minister of Human Services, and Minister of

Service Alberta. While Minister of Human Services, he reached out to the families of children who died while in care of the province and gave them the power to decide how to grieve the loss of their child; privately or publicly. He called for a analysis of mortalities in Alberta's child intervention system and was a powerful advocate and a voice for children sexually and physically abused.

The Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research has lost a champion, and Alberta has lost a passionate, ardent and effective voice in the legislature. He will be sadly missed.

## Alberta Early Years Conference: Save the date ~ October 3-4, 2016



The information from neuroscience is informing and changing our practices in profound ways. As we continue to learn about brain development, how do parents, professionals and policy makers sift through all this information and discern what really matters in early childhood? How do we then take this knowledge and make informed decisions about our practices and policies? How as a community can we support each other to make the changes that really matter for our children? In this two-day conference, what really matters for the young children in our lives will be explored.

[Learn more](#)

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS EXTENDED**  
**National Mentoring Symposium 2016**

**Mentoring: Catching Fire**  
**November 2 - 4 Rimrock Resort, Banff, Alberta**

Presentation proposals now accepted until  
Tuesday, December 15, 2016

Thank you to our generous sponsors who have  
made this event possible.

Logos for sponsors: Alberta Government, FCSS, and others.

[www.nmsevenet.ca](http://www.nmsevenet.ca)

National Mentoring Symposium 2016 / colloque national de mentorat 2016

Go to <http://nmsevenet.com/call-for-presentation-proposals-mentoring-catching-fire/>  
to access the Call for Proposals.



## Working with and engaging marginalized youth and families to make positive changes

Investigator: Yoshitaka Iwasaki, PhD

The literature on working with high-risk youth points to both the importance and challenges of using a youth-centred approach to building positive, meaningful relationships with youth. However, the

existing literature fails to examine youth-guided approaches to engaging and supporting high-risk youth. Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research funding enabled the Youth4YEG team to address this gap by strategically using youth-centred engagement and leadership approaches. These approaches involve youth-guided participatory action research (PAR) to ensure mutual respect, co-learning, relationship-building, power-sharing, empowerment, capacity-building, and collective commitment to social change. Youth leaders were co-drivers/co-researchers and guided the trajectory of the project. The project involved: (a) the youth-guided development of a framework of youth engagement (including youth-identified nine key themes such as relationship-building, opportunities, empowerment, and achievements); (b) pilot-testing of this framework through facilitating a series of

engagement sessions with youth recruited locally; and (c) hosting of a local youth conference named "2K15 Youth4YEG Forum" with the themes of "finding your voice" (building youth's self-awareness and claiming youth's own truth by sharing youth's stories, and focusing on inspiration, advocacy, and social change) and "transferable skills" (transferring and applying youth's skills to educational, career/employment, and other life opportunities in a positive, constructive way). Currently, the Youth4YEG team involves in youth-led fall and winter activities in 2015-16, focusing on "poverty" and "identity" issues contextualized within youth's lives.

[Access the Executive Summary](#)

## National Mentoring Symposium: Save the date ~ November 2-4, 2016

Canada's second national mentoring conference will advance the unique contributions of mentoring to the well being of children and youth, volunteer mentors and communities across Canada by highlighting innovative partnerships, promising practices or programs and the state of research.

[Learn more](#)



## Prairie Child Welfare Consortium: Save the date ~ October 26-28, 2016

Imagining Child Welfare in the Spirit of Reconciliation: This symposium, hosted in Winnipeg, Manitoba, will feature promising practices in service delivery, program development and policy making to effectively support vulnerable children, families and communities. The

consortium is also seeking proposals. The deadline for submissions is April 30.

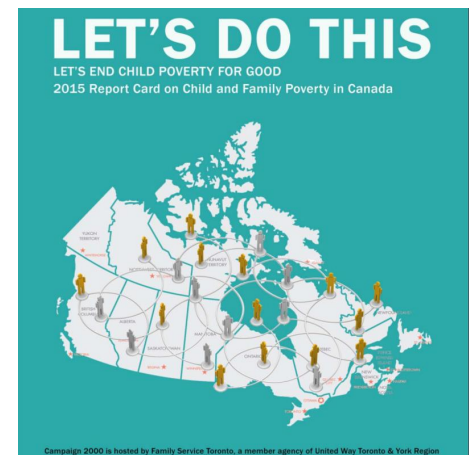
[Learn more](#)

## Report Card on Family Poverty in Canada Campaign 2000

The 2015 report card, entitled Let's Do This: Let's End Child Poverty for Good outlines the once in a generation opportunity before Canada to eradicate child and family poverty. With the federal government committed to collaboratively developing a national poverty reduction strategy, Canada must seize the opportunity to finally end the child poverty crisis for good.

The report card offers practical policy recommendations to all political parties to redress the persistence of child poverty in Canada. Campaign 2000 presents the latest statistics on child and family poverty and outlines how it impacts on multiple dimensions of children's lives - including health, mental health, educational achievement and future employment opportunities.

[Access the Full Report](#)







**SEEKING PRESENTATION PROPOSALS**  
**Early Childhood:**  
**Exploring What Matters**  
 October 3-4, 2016

We are seeking presentation proposals for the upcoming conference.

The deadline to submit your proposal is **December 18, 2015.**

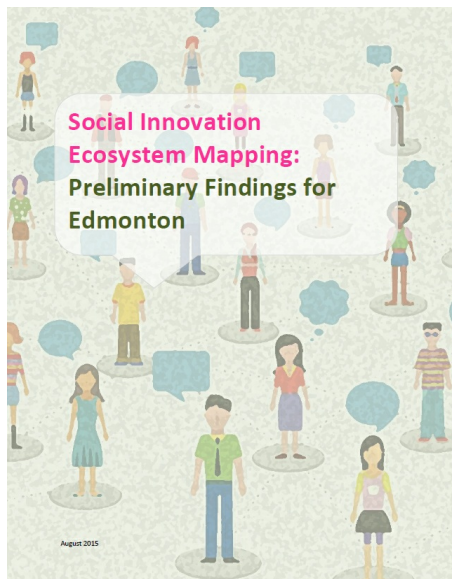
Go to [www.albertaearlyyears.ca](http://www.albertaearlyyears.ca) and follow the links to Conference 2016 and Call for Proposals.

Thank you to our generous sponsors who have made this event possible.

MacEwan University  
 SUCCESS by Design  
 Family Literacy  
 NORQUEST

[www.albertaearlyyears.ca](http://www.albertaearlyyears.ca)

Go to <http://albertaearlyyears.ca/conference-2016/> to access the Call for Proposals.



## Social Innovation Ecosystem Mapping: Preliminary Findings for Edmonton

Over summer and fall 2014, the Government of Alberta's Social Innovation Project Team partnered with community organizations around the province to map Alberta's social innovation ecosystem. The purpose of this work was to facilitate a better understanding of social innovation in Alberta and to help establish a baseline against which to measure future social innovation activities. As word and interest in this mapping work spread, workshops were convened with local organizers.

This document provides an overview of mapping work to date, providing some upfront context and survey results followed by summaries and rich pictures from each individual mapping workshop. This document will be updated on an ongoing basis as mapping work continues.

[Access the findings](#)

## A Children's Observatory for Canada: An update from Unicef Canada

UNICEF Canada is exploring the potential to bring UNICEF's global expertise in data generation and social innovation to a "children's observatory" in Canada. An observatory for and with Canada's children would foster innovative approaches to child well-being and belonging, with a mission to elevate the well-being of children from a middle position in the UNICEF Index of Child Well-Being.



Every point in the two-year journey to explore the potential for a children's observatory in Canada involves opportunities for the involvement of diverse contributors. The Centre's President and CEO, Robyn Blackadar, was invited to participate in UNICEF's "Design Week" in Ontario. Thirty experts from child-serving sectors and in measurement, design and storytelling joined UNICEF Canada and

Overlap Associates to prototype new approaches to measuring child well-being. They used a design process including site visits with children and youth and inspiring guest speakers from Canada and around the world to explore and rapidly ideate some solutions to these questions:

1. What do we need to know and measure to understand children's lives?
2. How might we do this?
3. How can we better translate data into action?

UNICEF is very interested in how to address important challenges for children creatively and effectively. Overlap Associates introduced UNICEF to design thinking as an approach to problem solving. It's proving to have incredible value to UNICEF in exploring the potential for a children's observatory and they think it will be helpful for other organizations too.

### Explore Prototypes

If you belong to or support a youth group, and there's an interest in testing some of our prototypes and exploring other opportunities for children and youth to participate in Design Year, please let UNICEF know at [policy@unicef.ca](mailto:policy@unicef.ca).

[Access the Brief on the Observatory for Canada's Children](#)



### ED-Ucate

ED-Ucate, to be held on February 3, 2016, is aimed at anyone who would like to better understand eating disorders. Teachers, parents, healthcare workers, fitness instructors, youth workers and others will all benefit from this day of learning. Thanks to the generous support of Field Law, most of the costs of the day are covered. The small participation fee (\$40) includes lunch and all the sessions.

EDSNA will host a number of other events for Eating Disorder Awareness Week (Feb 1-7, 2016), including a social event with colouring, an artists' cabaret called Shame Less and our bathroom scale smashing event, #Smash\_ED.

[For more information](#)



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