



CWLC LBEC

Child Welfare League of Canada
Ligue pour le bien-être de l'enfance du Canada

A N N U A L R E P O R T 2 0 1 5



Letter from the Board Chair and the CEO

The Child Welfare League of Canada (CWLC) has been a strong national voice on behalf of vulnerable children and youth since 1994. We have over 120 members that include community service agencies, federal, provincial & territorial government departments, universities and child advocates, representing all areas of Canada. Our members play a crucial role in helping us identify and address child welfare, children's mental health and youth justice issues in all jurisdictions across the country.

Over the past year the CWLC has continued to work on strengthening services for children and youth through a number of cutting edge projects. Our projects aligned with our strategic priorities by promoting the rights of children and families domestically and internationally, bringing light to the indigenous children and youth circumstances in Canada and building on partnerships with organizations that are part of children and youth services.

We have been active promoting the needs of vulnerable children and youth through our Board Members and Staff who have met with members of parliament, cabinet ministers and senior officials from many federal, provincial and territorial departments and agencies to discuss these important issues. We strive to develop a partnership with our members, with governments

and with local, regional, national and international organizations—in our commitment to address the challenges facing vulnerable children and youth.

Membership engagement is a defining focus for CWLC and a key priority for our organization, as we seek to draw on the expertise, experience and passion of our member organizations.

The challenges facing vulnerable children and youth are complex and multi-faceted. With help from members, the CWLC will strengthen its efforts to provide a strong national voice for vulnerable children and youth in Canada.

Sincerely yours,



Andy Koster
Board Chair



Gordon Phaneuf
Chief Executive Officer

What We Do



Our Vision

The Child Welfare League of Canada envisions a nation in which all children and youth have the opportunity to reach their full potential, and where those who face the greatest challenges are a national priority.

Our Mission

The Child Welfare League of Canada is a national membership organization working to influence legislation, policy, and programs which improve outcomes for children, youth and their families, especially those facing challenging circumstances.

Our Primary Areas of Focus

- Child Welfare
- Child and Youth Mental Health
- Youth Justice

CWLC Strategic Plan 2013-2018

Our strategic priorities

1. Increase capacity of domestic and international child and family service systems regarding child welfare, children's mental health and youth justice.
2. Strengthen our partnerships in child welfare, children's mental health and youth justice.
3. Promote the rights of children and youth as per the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).
4. Address the overrepresentation of Indigenous children in the child welfare, children's mental health and youth justice domains.
5. Advance CWLC as a national membership organization.

Strengthening Services for Children and Youth

The CWLC works throughout the year on projects supporting the strategic plan and vision of the organization. In addition to working within Canada, the CWLC, in collaboration with its member agencies, is recognized internationally as being a leader in the field of child and youth welfare and has been approached to work with provinces and territories, other countries and international organizations. A sampling of our work during 2015 is highlighted below.

Northwest Territories Workload Management Initiative

Funder: Department of Health and Social Services, Government of Northwest Territories

CWLC worked with the Government of the Northwest Territories to develop a workload and caseload management study in child protection. In 2014, the CWLC conducted site research that included interviews with child protection workers, supervisors, managers, and executive level staff. Detailed file reviews were also conducted to determine file completeness.

The CWLC worked with one of our members, Dr. Grant Charles (UBC), as a technical consultant on the project. He was assisted by MSW Candidate, Michelle Haywood-Farmer (UBC). The final report was delivered and approved by the Department of Health and Social Services.

Mapping and Promoting the Use of Federal Family Violence Surveillance Data

Funder: Public Health Agency of Canada

CWLC has been working with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to examine nation level data on child maltreatment and intimate partner violence and its use by government departments and agencies. The goal of this project will be to supplement policy, program, and research on the existing family violence data collected at the

federal level for the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). This data will serve as a basis for discussion with Family Violence Initiative (FVI) members to inform them on family violence prevention efforts and priorities at the federal level. The project is in its third phase and our next steps include optimizing family violence information.

Preventing Child Labour Through Child Protection

Funder: Eliminating Child Labour in Tobacco Growing (ECLT) Foundation, Switzerland

CWLC was invited by the Eliminating Child Labour in Tobacco Growing (ECLT) Foundation to provide technical assistance to support their work on child protection capacity development in Tanzania. The CWLC is working alongside key international, national, and district level stakeholders, including: UNICEF Tanzania; the Prime Minister's Office of Tanzania; Federal Departments Tanzania; and, other social service organizations. CWLC developed program content for an expert panel on *Child Labour Prevention Through Child Protection*. The panel was convened at the 2015 National Sustainability Conference *Pathways to Sustainability: Together We Can Eliminate Child Labour in Agriculture*.

South Africa Child Protection Surveillance Study

Funder: Department of Social Development, Republic of South Africa

CWLC has been working in collaboration with the South African Department of Social Development (DSD) to provide technical support to the development of a national data collection and analysis system on child abuse. Most recently the CWLC has provided technical assistance in designing and developing a sustainable costing method to support ongoing surveillance and research in child abuse for South Africa's Department of Social Development.

Child Protection Practice and Policy Review: British Columbia

Funder: Ministry of Children and Family Development, British Columbia

The CWLC has been contracted to support the British Columbia Ministry of Children and Family Development. The work includes reviewing legislation, policies and standards with respect to child protection practice in cases involving custody and access disputes, and assess the level of guidance and support given to staff. The CWLC has obtained the expertise of Dr. Deborah Goodman of the Child Welfare Institute to provide technical expertise on this Review.

Future Directions in Preventing Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Conference

Funder: Ministry of Children and Family Development, British Columbia

The CWLC is assisting with the planning of a national conference on child abuse and domestic violence. The forum topics will address and advance information on child welfare, with specific attention given to: improved collaboration between child welfare and domestic violence service responses; strengthened integration of the needs of front-line professionals and the imperatives of

the policy and legislative context; and, enhanced victim-sensitive and culturally-valid service delivery.

The conference will be held May 2-4, 2016 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Protecting Children through Improved Child Abuse Reporting

Funder: Ministry of Children and Family Development, British Columbia

The CWLC has been contracted by the Ministry of Children and Family Development in British Columbia to review and provide technical input on its child abuse reporting framework. The Ministry has contracted with the CWLC to review and advise on public education materials that may be distributed through the campaign. Additionally, CWLC will be advising on the implementation of strategies to facilitate public reporting.





Partnerships

The CWLC magnifies its professional footprint by working collaboratively with some of the leading organization in our domain in Canada and across the globe. Some the the key partnerships are highlighted below:

Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)

The CWLC and the CWLA have a longstanding mutually beneficial strategic partnership. CWLA leads and engages a network of public and private agencies and partners to advance policies, best practices and collaborative strategies that result in better outcomes for vulnerable children, youth and families. CWLA is a coalition of hundreds of private and public agencies serving vulnerable children and families. Our two organizations share expertise, resources and access to learning opportunities. Future collaborations will focus on knowledge mobilization and conferences and training.

Youth in Care Canada (YCC)

Youth in Care Canada (YCC) is a strong partner of the CWLC. They are a vibrant organization driven by youth and alumni of the child welfare sector. Youth in Care Canada's mandate is well summarized in their expression, 'Making Connections and Making Change'.

Youth in Care Canada exists to voice the opinions and concerns of youth in and from care and promote the improvement of services for them. They are the only national constituency-driven consumer-focused organization in the child welfare sector. They are also the longest-running national child welfare organization in Canada, and the oldest national youth-directed organization in the country.

National Guidance and Implementation Committee (NGIC) for the Development of Pan-Canadian Guidance on Family Violence

CWLC is a partner in the National Guidance and Implementation Committee (NGIC) for the Development of Pan-Canadian guidance on Family Violence. An inaugural meeting was held June 11-12, 2015 in Ottawa. This multi-year project is part of a Government of Canada's investment to address family violence from a public health perspective. The NGIC project is structured as a partnership with the

British Columbia Centre of Excellence for Women's Health (BCCEWH) and the Preventing Violence Across the Lifespan (PreVAiL) Research Network. The primary objective among partners is to engage in a process to produce up-to-date, evidence-informed guidance, curriculum and practice tools of optimal use to their member organizations that will lead to better outcomes for those who experience violence.

International Forum on Child Welfare (IFCW)

The mission of the IFCW is to work for children worldwide to improve the quality of their lives,

and to enhance opportunities for the development of their full potential. This mission includes a commitment by IFCW's members to work for the fulfillment of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Strengthening non-governmental child welfare organisations worldwide is a key focus of the IFCW.

The CWLC holds the Treasurer position for the International Forum on Child Welfare and has supported the Forum's operational and planning agenda.

Promoting Children's Rights through Knowledge Mobilization

The CWLC has participated and contributed to the following key knowledge mobilization events in 2015 that work to promote children's rights both domestically and internationally:

- **Advisory Committee (National), Healthy Weights for Children:** Kelowna, British Columbia
- **Children of the Recession Conference,** UNICEF Canada, University of Ottawa: Ottawa, Ontario
- **Coalition on Community Safety, Health and Well-Being- Strategic Planning,** Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police: Ottawa, Ontario
- **National Collaboration on Child Protection,** Saint-Paul University: Ottawa, Ontario
- **Violence Prevention Milestones Meeting,** World Health Organization: Geneva, Switzerland
- **2015 National Sustainability Conference Pathways to Sustainability: Together We Can Eliminate Child Labour in Agriculture,** Eliminating Child Labour Foundation: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- **Forum on a National Children's Commissioner for Canada,** UNICEF Canada and New Brunswick Child and Youth Advocate: Moncton, New Brunswick
- **National Guidance and Implementation Committee (NGIC) for the Development of Pan Canadian Guidance on Family Violence,** The Public Health Response to Family Violence: June 11 12, 2015, Ottawa, Ontario

Supporting Indigenous Children and Youth

The CWLC is involved in a number of initiatives pertaining to Aboriginal Children and Youth. Our goal is to address the needs of vulnerable Aboriginal Children and youth by increasing understanding, knowledge exchange and action regarding Aboriginal child and youth issues.

Enhancing Prevention: Development of a Needs Assessment for an Enhanced Prevention Model

Funder: Innu Round Table Secretariat (IRT), Labrador
The CWLC is working with the Innu Nation on developing a needs assessment for an Enhanced Prevention Model for the delivery of child welfare prevention services. The needs assessment will include an environmental scan and a mapping exercise. CWLC is working in partnership with the Innu Nation to ensure the mapping exercise outlines the cultural strengths of the Sheshatshiu and Natuashish communities. CWLC conducted site visits in Labrador during which important data was collected with the help of community members, foster parents, Innu Leaders, the IRT, and Child, Youth and Family Services staff. The project is now in the final phase which includes reporting on the findings and recommendations.

CWLC Indigenous Member Organizations

Indigenous Perspectives Society, British Columbia
Lac La Ronge Indian Child & Family Services Agency, Saskatchewan
Native Child & Family Services of Toronto
Métis Child and Family Services Authority, Manitoba
Métis Child, Family & Community Service, Manitoba
Mi'Kmaq Confederacy, PEI

Yorkton Tribal Council, Saskatchewan Aboriginal Child Welfare Consultation Winnipeg, Manitoba

In conjunction with its Winnipeg Board Meeting and Annual General Meeting the CWLC convened a Consultation on Aboriginal Child Welfare April 16, 2015 in Winnipeg. It featured a panel focused on the Challenges of Coordinating Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Service Delivery. The panelists for the Aboriginal Panel in Winnipeg are as follows:

Panel Chair:

Dr. Don Fuchs, University of Manitoba

Panelists:

Billie Schibler, CEO, Métis Child and Family Services Authority

Cheryl Martinez, Executive Director, Snowflake Place for Children and Youth

Diane Kelly, Executive Director of the Child Protection Branch, Child and Family Services Division, Government of Manitoba

Following the panel, a roundtable was held that allowed further discussion of this important issue. Key speakers at the Knowledge Exchange were Dr. Joan Durrant and Dr. Don Fuchs from the University of Manitoba.

CWLC Membership

Engaging Members from Coast to Coast to Coast

As a member-based organization the CWLC connects its members from coast to coast to coast through knowledge exchanges. In 2015, the CWLC hosted roundtables and panel discussions across the nation. Roundtables and panel discussions were held in Winnipeg and Toronto creating the opportunity to explore, discuss and debate various topics and issues on child welfare, children's mental health and youth justice.

April 16, 2015	CWLC Knowledge Exchange, Winnipeg, Manitoba Themes : Key Trends & Developments in Children's Mental Health and Challenges of Coordinating Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Service Delivery
October 22, 2015	CWLC and IFCW International Forum on Child and Youth Trafficking Themes: Child and Youth Exploitation: Trends, Developments and Partnerships and Child and Youth Trafficking: How much do we know?

Valuing Our Members

Together we are making a difference for vulnerable children and youth in Canada. We want to thank our members for their continued professional and financial support. A particular expression of gratitude is extended to our sustaining members who by their generous contributions make CWLC even stronger.

Webinar Series

Mental Health Knowledge Network

The Mental Health Knowledge Network Webinar Series is co-chaired by Dr. Ramona Alaggia, Associate Professor and Factor-Inwentash Chair in Children's Mental Health at the Factor – Inwentash Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto and Dr. Christine Walsh, Associate Professor at the University of Calgary. It generated a great deal of interest in 2014-2015. Developed in association with the CWLC's Mental Health Task Force, it has become a compelling webinar series on child, youth, and family mental health issues. The webinars showcase thought leaders and content experts who share their expertise, best practices, and research in mental health service and support to children and their families. Webinars were held in both English and French and were very well attended.

Speakers featured in 2014-2015 included:

Dr. Michael Ungar, Dalhousie University;
Dr. Michael DeGagné, Nipissing University;
Dr. Chaya Kulkarni, Toronto Sick Kids Hospital;
Dr. Linda Baker, Western University;
Dr. Michael Saini, University of Toronto.

Upcoming speakers featured in 2015-2016 include:

Dr. Richard Tremblay, Canada Research Chair in Child Development, University of Montreal;
Dr. Stan Kutcher, IWK Health Centre, Dalhousie University;
Bonnie Johnston, Chief Executive Officer, Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre;
Dr. Carole Anne Hapchyn, CASA Child Adolescent and Family Mental Health;
Dr. Sarah Maiter, York University.

Excellence in Children's Services

The Excellence in Children's Services webinars showcase thought leaders and content experts who share their expertise, best practices, and research in mental health services and support programs for children and their families.

Speakers featured in 2014-2015 included:

Dr. Grant Charles, University of British Columbia;
Dr. H Montgomery, University of Regina;
Dr. Sonia Hélie, Centre de jeunesse de Montréal – Institut universitaire;
Dr. Marie-Ève Clément, Université du Québec en Outaouais;
Dr. Harriet MacMillan, McMaster University;
Susan Gardiner, Wood's Home;
Dr. Bruce MacLaurin, University of Calgary;
Jon Reeves, Alberta Human Services.

Upcoming speakers featured in 2015-2016 include:

Lynn Barry, Executive Director of Canadian Child Abuse Association;
Christian Whalen, Senior Legal Council, New Brunswick Office of the Child and Youth Advocate;
Sylvie Beauchamp, Chercheure à l'institut National d'excellence en santé et en service sociaux (INESSS);
Del Graff, Alberta Child and Youth Advocate;
Raymond Shingoose, Executive Director, Yorkton Tribal Council, Yorkton, Saskatchewan.

Membership List 2015-2016

Alberta

Alberta Association of Services for Children and Families
 Alberta Centre for Child, Family & Community Research
 Alberta Foster Parent Association
 Alberta Human Services
 Aspen Family & Community Network Society
 Boys and Girls Club of Calgary
 Calgary & Area Child and Family Services
 Children's Cottage Society of Calgary
 Child & Family Services Authority
 Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health
 Edmonton & Area Child & Family Services
 Hull Child and Family Services
 McMan Youth, Family & Community Services
 Mountain Plains Community Services
 Office of the Child and Youth Advocate
 Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre
 The Family Centre of Northern Alberta
 University of Calgary, Faculty of Social Work
 Vantage Community Services
 W.J. Stelmaschuk & Associates Ltd
 Wood's Homes
 Zebra Child Protection Centre

British Columbia

British Columbia Injury Research & Prevention Unit
 British Columbia Ministry of

Children & Family Development
 Elizabeth Fry Society, Greater Vancouver
 Family Services, Greater Vancouver
 Ministry of Children and Family Development
 Pacific Community Resources Services
 Representative for Children and Youth
 The Bridge Youth & Family Services
 The Children's Foundation
 University of British Columbia, School of Social Work

Manitoba

Child and Family Services Division
 Child & Family Services Western Manitoba
 Government of Manitoba, Child and Family Services
 Métis Child and Family Services Authority
 Métis Child, Family & Community Service
 Office of the Child Advocate
 Snowflake Place for Children and Youth
 Winnipeg Child and Family Services

New Brunswick

Department of Social Development, Government of New Brunswick
 New Brunswick Association of Social Workers
 New Brunswick Office of the Child and Youth Advocate

Newfoundland and Labrador

Department of Social Development, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
 Key Assets Newfoundland
 Memorial University of Newfoundland, School of Social Work
 Newfoundland and Labrador Foster Families Association
 Office of the Child & Youth Advocate

Nova Scotia

Annapolis District Office
 Council of Chairs for Nova Scotia
 Department of Community Services, Government of Nova Scotia
 Department of Community Services, Inverness Richmond
 Department of Community Services, Pictou
 Department of community Services, Queens County
 Department of Community Services, Western Regional office
 Department of Community, Cumberland
 Department of Community Services, Yarmouth
 Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia
 Homebridge Youth society
 IWK Health Centre
 Lunenburg District Office
 Mental Health, Children's Services and Addictions Treatment Branch,
 Department of Health and Wellness
 Nova Scotia Officer of the Ombudsman
 Savoury Consulting Ltd.
 Shelburne District Office
 Strongest Families Institute

Nunavut

Department of Social Services,
Government of Nunavut

Northwest Territories

Department of Social Services,
Government of Northwest
Territories

Ontario

Bayfield Treatment Centres
Blue Hills Child and Family
Centre
Boost Child and Youth Advocacy
Centre
Brant Family and Children's
Services
Catholic Children's Aid Society
of Toronto
Centre for Research &
Education on Violence
Against Women
Centre for Research on
Educational and Community
Services
Chatham Kent Children's
Services
Children Aid Society of the
United Counties of Stormont,
Dundas and Glengarry
Children's Aid Foundation
Children's Aid Society of
Toronto
Children's Aid Society Ottawa
Children's Aid Society Peel
Children's Mental Health
Ontario
Covenant House Toronto
Family and Children's Services,
County of Guelph
Family and Children's Services,
County of Renfrew
Durham Children's Aid Society
Hincks-Dellcrest Treatment
Centre
Infant Mental Health Promotion

Kinark Child & Family Services
London Family Court Clinic,
Centre for Children and
Families in the Justice

Lutherwood

Ontario Ministry of Children
and Youth Services Child
Welfare Secretariat

Ontario Association of
Children's Aid Societies

Ontario Ministry of Children
and Youth Services

Peel Children's Centre

Ontario Office of the Provincial
Advocate

Public Health Agency of Canada

Native Child & Family Services
of Toronto

Stepping Stones Foster Care Inc
University of Ottawa

University of Toronto,

Department of Social Work
Valoris for Children and Adults

of Prescott-Russell

Windsor Regional Children's
centre

Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa

Prince Edward Island

Department of Community
Services and Seniors,
Government of Prince Edward
Island

Mi'Kmaq Confederacy of PEI

Québec

Batshaw Youth & Family
Centres

Centre jeunesse de la Mauricie

Centre jeunesse de la
Montréal

Centre jeunesse de l'Outaouais

Centre jeunesse de Montréal,
Institut universitaire

Centre jeunesse de Québec,

Institute universitaire

Commission de la Santé et des
Services Sociaux des Premières
Nations du Québec et du Labrador

Saskatchewan

Advocate for Children and Youth
Department of Social Services,
Government of Saskatchewan
First Nations Family and Community
Institute Inc

Lac La Ronge Indian Band, Indian
Child & Family Services Agency
Inc

University of Regina, Faculty of
Social Work

Ranch Ehrlo Society

Saskatchewan Foster Families
Association

Yorkton Tribal Council

Yukon

Department of Health and Social
Services, Government of Yukon

Yukon Child & Youth Advocate
Office

National

Canadian Accreditation Council

Canadian Association of Social
Workers

Canadian Centre for Accreditation

Canadian Foster Family Association

Canadian Red Cross

Canadian Society for the

Investigation of Child Abuse,
Canadian Child Abuse

Association

CARF Canada

Child Development Institute

Council On Accreditation

Indigenous Perspectives Society

Key Assets Canada LTD

SOS Children's Village Canada

UNICEF Canada

International

Child Welfare League of America

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- Dr. Deborah Goodman, Director, Child Welfare Institute
- Dr. Grant Charles, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, University of British Columbia
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- Dean Faye Mishna, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto
- Dean Jackie Sieppert, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary
- Lynn Barry, Executive Director, Canadian Child Abuse Association
- Newprint
- Nicholas McCoy, Senior Policy Analyst and Advocacy Office Labour in Tobacco Growing Foundation
- Patty Sansregret, Manager, Special Projects, Office of the Children's Advocate
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Sonia Velazquez, Executive Director, Eliminating Child Labour in Tobacco Growing Foundation
- Steve Joudry, Innu Round Table Secretariat
- Theresa Costello, President, International Forum for Child Welfare



CWLC Financial Statements

(Year end: March 31, 2014)

Statement of Financial Position

Child Welfare League of Canada

Statement of financial position as at
March 31, 2015

	2015
Current assets	
Cash	\$ 14,941
Short-term investments	150,218
Accounts receivable (note 7)	122,428
Government sales taxes receivable	4,958
Prepaid expenses	8,204
	<u>\$ 300,759</u>
Current liabilities	
Accounts payable	\$ 31,870
Deferred revenue (note 2)	25,000
	<u>56,870</u>
Net assets	
Internally restricted to	
Contingency fund (note 4)	243,889
Unrestricted	-
	<u>243,889</u>
	<u>\$ 300,759</u>

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Child Welfare League of Canada

Statement of operations for the year ended
March 31, 2015

	2015
Revenue	
Membership fees - regular	239,568
Membership fees - sustaining	56,000
Other	6,662
Service fees	2,180
Youth Film Project	\$ 4,400
	<u>308,810</u>
Project revenue (schedule)	279,456
Total revenue	<u>588,276</u>
Expenditure	
Office and general	102,013
Personnel	357,242
Publications and printing	8,049
Travel, accomodation and meetings	38,596
Cost recoveries (note 6)	(232,040)
	<u>273,860</u>
Project Expenditures (schedule)	279,456
Total Expenditure	<u>553,326</u>
Net revenue expenditure for the year	<u>\$ 34,950</u>

Completed audited financial statements are available upon request.