

INTERNATIONAL
CHILD
PROTECTION
NETWORK
OF CANADA

Annual Report 2016



**International Child Protection Network of Canada
(ICPNC)**

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Table of Contents

FORWARD	2
INTRODUCTION	3
ABOUT US	3
OUR CORE OBJECTIVES	3
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE	4
GOVERNANCE: THE STEERING COMMITTEE	4
ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2016	5
YEAR THEME: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)	5
CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION	6
POLICY AND ENGAGEMENT	8
CHILD SAFEGUARDING	9
MONITORING AND EVALUATION	10
ANNUAL FACE TO FACE MEETING	12
FINANCIAL REPORT 2016	13
LIST OF MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS	14

Forward

It was a pivotal year for the International Child Protection Network of Canada as we continued to make great strides in advancing the child rights and protection agenda through ongoing policy engagement and a deepening commitment to lead on this critical initiative.

The year 2016 has seen considerable progress in child protection thanks to the concerted efforts and coalition of child rights networks such as ICPNC. Internationally, we have seen child protection embedded in the Sustainable Development Goals and the launch of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (GPEVAC). We are already seeing strong commitments evidenced by GPEVAC with the release of the *Inspire Package: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children*, which identifies a set of evidence-based strategies that have shown success in reducing violence against children. Domestically, the ICPNC continues to strengthen its ongoing dialogue and relationship with the Child Protection Unit in

Global Affairs Canada (GAC). ICPNC Working Groups and Global Affairs Canada joined forces to host the Universal Children's Day (November 2016) in Ottawa which turned out to be a great success. The Child Protection Unit, Global Affairs Canada continued its remarkable work throughout the year as the sector witnessed an increase in calls for proposals related to the protection of boys and girls.

ICPNC's work in 2016 continued to be rich in learning. Bringing together child protection and policy experts have proven to be an invaluable partnership filled with continuously shared learning, research and best practices to advance the Network's core objectives. The four working groups organized high learning events, published reports and drafted policy recommendations that increased collective knowledge and capabilities.

After an eventful year, we look forward to 2017 where our primary focus of "keeping children on the agenda" as the fundamental pillar to child protection, will be consistently rooted in our strategies and policy work.

Thank you all for your unprecedented dedication to Child Protection.



Patricia Erb
President & CEO
Save The Children Canada



Introduction

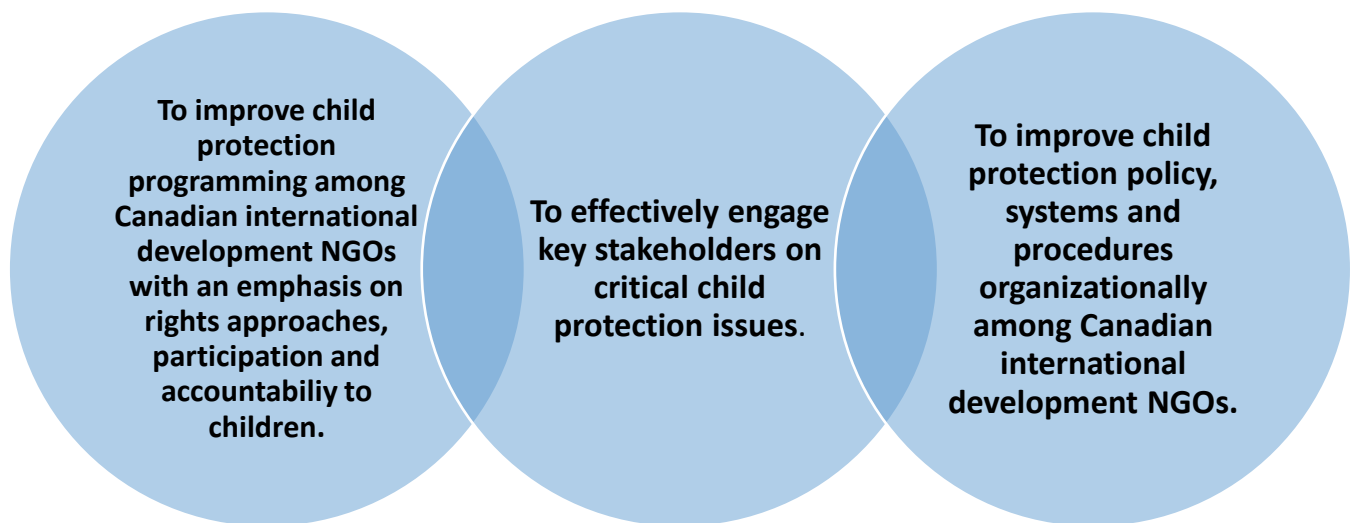
About Us

The International Child Protection Network of Canada (ICPNC) is a collaboration of international child-centered development organizations, academics and experts committed to working together to protect children and advance children's rights. We believe that all children have an absolute right to be safe from all forms of violence, abuse and neglect. They have an intrinsic right to survive, to belong, to receive adequate care and to grow up in a protective environment. We also believe that children possess participative rights to partake in the decision-making process which affects their lives, in a manner that is consistent with their evolving capacities.

Our goal is to strengthen the effectiveness of Child Protection programming, policy and procedures among development organizations globally. We invite dialogue with government at all levels to work together on developing meaningful action to shape a world-class, evidenced-based, international development, humanitarian assistance and foreign policy approach to these critical issues.

The ICPNC is committed to making a tangible difference in the lives of the world's most vulnerable children.

Our Core Objectives



Organizational Structure

The ICPNC uses a collaborative governance structure to ensure the active participation of partners and maximize opportunities for knowledge sharing.

The current chair, Save the Children Canada, works together with the Steering Committee to oversee working plans, facilitate collective decision-making and ensure cohesion between the four working groups, namely: Child Participation, Monitoring and Evaluation, Policy Engagement, and Child Safeguarding.

The working groups then develop their action plans to reach goals and establish partnerships.



Governance: The Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is charged with the strategic planning and oversight of the ICPNC as well as the facilitation of collective decision making. The committee oversees working priorities for the entire Network and strives to ensure cohesion between the four working groups, particularly as it relates to the policy recommendations put forward by ICPNC's policy papers to Global Affairs Canada. In doing so, the Steering Committee reviews and signs-off on all new pieces and key messages ensuring they align with network values, rules and regulations.

The Steering Committee also oversees the logistical requirements of the network including the budget and member contributions, facilitating annual events, revising new members' and consultants' applications and operations management. Also, the committee ensures that ICPNC members receive various updates from organizations on innovative ideas, new prospects, and grant opportunities throughout the year.



Achievements of 2016

Year Theme: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Through a consultative process with ICPNC members during the Annual Face to Face Meeting, the 2016 thematic focus set for the network was the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Following up and expanding on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the new Global Development Agenda (2016-2030) is even more ambitious and makes significant strides in advancing equality and inclusion with its universally adopted set of seventeen goals. The SDGs recognize that children are central to sustainable development and that inclusive economic growth and social development are interrelated and interdependent. Consequently, almost all the goals are directly related to children or will contribute to their health, education and well-being indirectly.¹



Goal 4: Quality Education

Strengthens the MDGs by including commitments on early childhood development, learning outcomes, youth and adult literacy, as well as technical and vocational skills for employment.

Goal 5: Gender Equality

Builds on the MDGs by recognizing the value of unpaid work and explicitly mentioning all forms of violence and all harmful practices against women and girls, such as sexual violence, trafficking, exploitation, child marriage and female genital cutting.

Goal 16: Peace and Justice

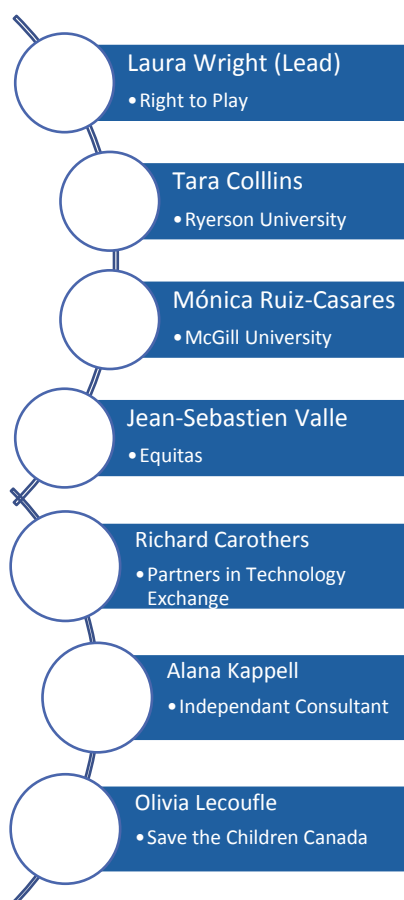
Addresses an important omission from the MDGs by including targets on reducing all forms of violence against children, ending abuse, trafficking and exploitation, and institutionalizing birth registration practices

¹ ICPNC Echo Newsletter. Volume 4, Issue 1. April 2016.

<https://icpnc.files.wordpress.com/2015/09/icpnc-echo-april-20162.pdf>

Children's Participation

The right of all children to be heard and taken seriously constitutes one of the fundamental values of the UN's Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Child participation is increasingly being adopted as a universal approach by child-centered international development organizations and agencies in their policies, programs and research work. The ICPNC's Child Participation Working Group contributes to these efforts by continuously promoting meaningful participation and inclusion of children in taking part in the decision-making processes that affect their everyday lives. Members collaboratively explore approaches, share lessons learned and best practices, discuss innovative strategies and tools, and share critical information regarding trends and new developments in the field. The Working Group consistently seeks to continue to document successes, articulate key messages, explore concrete synergies and collaborate where possible.



The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) International and Canadian Children Rights Partnership Grant (ICCRP)

The SSHRC awarded ICCRP with a grant to conduct a 3-year project to measure children's meaningful participation in child protection. The project was developed as a result of collaboration during the ICPNC Children's Participation Working Group but is not a Children's Participation Working Group-specific grant. However, as ICPNC is a partner and a few members are investigators, collaborators and/or partner organization, the research will benefit all of ICPNC. The ICCRP involves ICPNC members, Ryerson University, International Institute for Child Rights and Development, University of Cape Town, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Right to Play International, Edinburgh University, Lakehead University, and McGill University along with numerous institutional partners. ICCRP has come together in order to address the critical question of *"how can children's participation in international and Canadian child protection programs and policies be monitored?"*.

ICPNC Conference Briefs:

ICPNC is cognizant of the need for greater emphasis on child protection as a development approach resulting in fertile ground for innovative work. The Child Participation Working Group proudly produced briefing notes stemming from the SSHRC Connections Grant funded "Facilitating Child Protection in International Child Protection Conference" at Ryerson University on October 5th and 6th, 2015. The [Exploring Tensions in Child Participation in International Child Protection Briefing Note](#) addresses concerns in child participation and protection through the sharing of expertise in the field, and by addressing gaps in international frameworks. The [Child Participation and Child Safeguarding Briefing Note](#) delved into similar children's rights approaches with discussions centered on planning, resolutions to protection, and inadequacies in current models of safeguarding. Furthermore, the [International Journal of Human Rights Special 2017 Issue: Facilitating Meaningful Participation in](#)

Child Protection was successfully published with ICPNC contributions and discusses the latter challenges and opportunities that were highlighted in the conference and adds emphasis on the actual and potential participatory role of children and young people in effective child protection.

Webinar: Innovative Approaches: Sharing Tips and Strategies on Child Participation

ICPNC's work is rooted in best practices and lessons learned from the sector. In an ongoing effort to stimulate fruitful discussions among members, the working group hosted a webinar on "Innovative Approaches: Sharing Tips and Strategies on Child Protection. It created space for members to successfully 1) reconnect after the Facilitating Children's Participation in Child Protection Conference in October 2015; 2) discuss diverse exciting initiatives that have been taking place in the last year across NGOs, Academics, and government bodies; and 3) explore opportunities for further collaborative and individual actions.

Universal Children's Day ICPNC Global Affairs Canada Event (November 24th, 2016)

- Joint collaboration with the **Policy and Engagement Working Group**

The Children Participation Working Group collaborated with the Policy Engagement Working group in the development and roll-out of the Universal Children's Day ICPNC Global Affairs Canada (GAC) Event. This panel event and participatory workshop for children and youth to mark Universal Children's Day on November 24th, was the first child participation event of its kind to be hosted by Global Affairs Canada.

The successful event created space for meaningful participation and engagement of young people, exemplary panel presentations, and valuable discussion with the Global Affairs Canada's Child Protection Unit. With a group of over 40 children and youth grades 6 to 12, the event was an opportunity to engage in fruitful discussions with young people keen on knowing more about children's rights, exploring strengths and barriers to said rights, "actioning" initiatives to lead in their own schools and communities and asking a plethora of questions on indigenous rights, poverty in Canada, LGBTQ rights, and what Canada was like prior to the UNCRC. During the Panel, Karina Gould MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development highlighted that



"children and youth are powerful agents of social change", while child rights advocate and former senator, Landon Pearson shared her proudest moments of starting a movement of engaging child delegates in the World Fit for children summit. David Morley, President and CEO of UNICEF Canada honed in on the importance of child protection, and Divina Usabase, youth ambassador and advocate voiced a need for greater emphasis on Mental Health education and awareness.

The ICPNC was also privy to a closed meeting with GAC's Child Protection Unit where updates on the current status and actions of the unit as well as on key child protection policy areas that ICPNC recommended in previous policy briefs were discussed.

Following the event, a teacher from Hopewell school reached out to inform ICPNC that *“the panel discussion was right at the kids’ level and they felt so respected, mature and important having these esteemed adults actively listening to their concerns and taking their questions seriously.”*

The Children’s Participation Working Group is delighted that it achieved its goal and that Global Affairs Canada deemed the collaborative event as highly successful!

Policy and Engagement

The Policy and Engagement Working Group (PEWG) engages with the Government of Canada and advises key stakeholders on child protection policy development, as well as current and emerging child protection issues. The group has demonstrated consistent engagement with Global Affairs Canada’s Child Protection Unit by generating policy pieces, hosting events, and an ongoing dialogue to advance the overall child protection agenda.

Universal Children’s Day- ICPNC GAC Event (November 24th, 2016)

- Joint collaboration with the **Child Participation Working Group**

Featured above in the Child Participation section, is the highlight of the two Working Groups’ successful collaboration in coordinating and facilitating a meaningful participation workshop at the Universal Children’s Day event. The event not only helped deepen ICPNC’s relationship with GAC, particularly at senior management and political levels, but it received excellent feedback from all levels within government and deemed the “hot ticket in town.” GAC is open to exploring further collaboration with ICPNC in making this an annual affair. Following the event, the Network was thrilled to receive a personal letter of thanks from the Assistant Deputy Minister.

Global Affairs Canada International Assistance Review (IAR)

As Canada is well-positioned to move forward the global agenda and to make real gains for children, the group identified core areas in the IAR that aligned with the priorities set out in the consultation discussion paper. ICPNC’s collective and individual organizational interventions helped ensure that children’s rights and protection issues were consistently raised throughout the IAR consultations. This impact was evidenced by analysis undertaken by the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC), ‘IAR: In Our Words’ (p.27), which identifies ‘child protection’ as one of the top breakout issues in sector submissions. Throughout the process, a lesson learned was that ICPNC’s collective policy submissions and interventions are amplified and greatly supported when coordinating key messages across PEWG member organizations and ensuring consistent and coordinated responses.





Canadian Civil Society Consultation on the Zero Draft Strategy of the GPEVAC

The PEWG hosted the official Canadian civil society consultation on the zero draft strategy of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (GPEVAC). Participants who attended the half-day workshop included ICPNC members representing international and Canadian non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations, independent child protection experts and consultants, and academics. Deputy Director of the Child Protection Unit (head of unit) at GAC, Kathleen Flynn-Dapaah and a Government of Canada official representative on the Executive Committee of the GPEVAC were also in attendance. The impact of the fruitful workshop is evidenced by the inclusion of ICPNC recommendations in consultation outputs and recognition of Canadian participation in GPEVAC communications.

Children and Armed Conflict- Support for the Safe Schools Declaration

The group continues to lend its support for the Safe Schools Declaration as there has been significant movement on this file over the past year. The PEWG is thrilled that political will is now in place and legal and technical concerns have been worked through on the matter. The group also partnered with the Canadian International Education Policy Working Group (CIEPWG), a peer/sibling Canadian network, to initiate a joint letter to Ministers.

Welcome Letter to the Incoming Minister for International Development

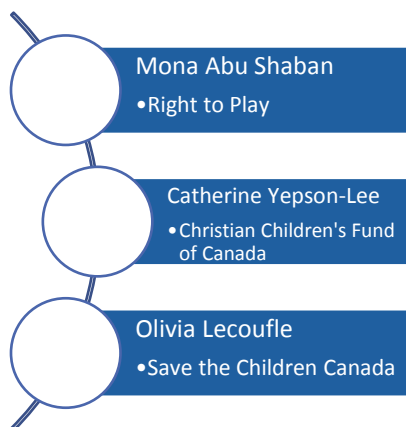
The Policy and Engagement Working Group proactively welcomed the incoming Minister for International Development by sending a letter on behalf of the ICPNC Chair. The welcome letter was accompanied by an updated policy briefing paper for the new government which introduced the work of the network and ICPNC's core policy recommendations in strategic priority areas.

Child Safeguarding

The Child Safeguarding Working Group (CSWG) consist of Human Resources (HR) and Child Protection Technical experts that collaborate to advance a shared vision and continue the conversations around Child Safeguarding audit and policy issues within organizations to collectively share learning and ideas.

Webinar: Child Safeguarding in International Sport

On April 7, 2016 the Child Safeguarding Working Group hosted a webinar on Child Safeguarding in International Sport. The webinar provided a comprehensive overview of key child safeguarding in sport safeguards, challenges and considerations within the child and sport context. Facilitated by Dr. Daniel Rhind and Frank Owusu-Sekyere from Brunel University in the United Kingdom, presentations were grounded in their three-year Oak Foundation research project by the International Child Safeguarding in Sport Founders Group. Discussions centered on ways to develop and implement appropriate sport-specific safeguarding policies and procedures in consultation with children, families and communities. The webinar was successful in highlighting the importance of safeguarding children in sports.



Child Safeguarding Survey

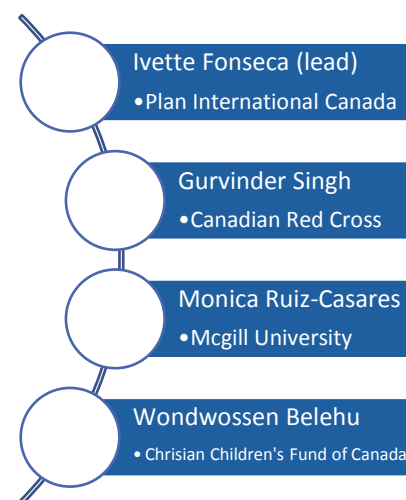
Nearing the end of 2016, Working Group members developed the Child Safeguarding Survey for ICPNC members to complete with the goal of understanding each organization's training capacities and best practices on Child Safeguarding. The survey provides an opportunity for members to identify knowledge and procedural gaps within in their organization and tools to mitigate them. In 2017, the Child Safeguarding WG will follow up with all network members to complete the survey and develop 2017 plans to support organizations to address gaps.

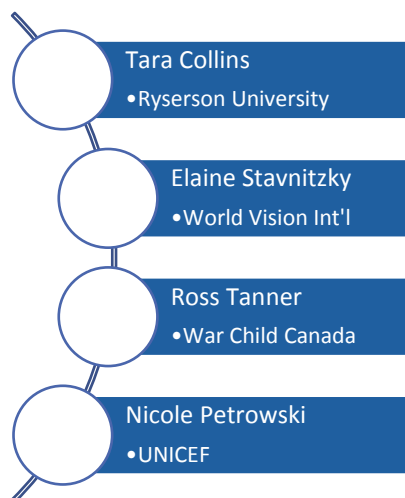
Monitoring and Evaluation

The Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group continues to be instrumental in identifying capacity gaps and entry points in Child Protection policy and programming to make ICPNC activities and strategies more meaningful and efficient. The group is consistently analyzing case studies, development models, strategies, monitoring and evaluation frameworks, etc. to expand their knowledge and remain updated on the current progress (achievements and failures) of the global agenda.

Webinar: Reconsidering Child Protection Systems: Critical Reflections

The M&E Working Group hosted the webinar Reconsidering Child Protection Systems: Critical Reflections (November 2016) with Phillip Cook (founder and current Executive Director of the International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD)) and Bill Forbes (Director of Child Protection for World Vision International). The **webinar** focused on learnings from on-going global efforts to strengthen child protection systems in development and humanitarian settings. There appears to be a shared sense among many practitioners and organizations that discussions





about how to transform child protection theory and policy into practice have reached a critical juncture. Our guest speakers discussed the conclusions of various studies and evaluations which show that, despite a general consensus about the potential effectiveness of the systems approach, there remain considerable challenges to apply this theoretical approach to operational and functioning child protection systems in countries with very different cultural, political, historical and economic contexts. The webinar's fascinating topic yielded vast online participation from development practitioners and experts from around the world- Canada, United States, UK, Thailand, India, Bangladesh, Colombia, Brazil and Kenya.

Annual Face to Face Meeting

The Annual ICPNC Face-to-Face meeting is an opportunity for network members to come together (in person and remotely) to reflect on their previous year's performance and their collaborative vision for 2017. The meeting was held on February 25, 2016 at the UNICEF Canada office in Toronto, Ontario. The full-day agenda consisted of a strategic planning meeting in the morning among members followed by consultations on the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (GPEVAC) in the afternoon session.

The day began with members assessing and reflecting on the network's main achievements and challenges against the priorities outlined in the 2015 work plans. After consideration of strengths and lessons learned, participants explored ideas for the 2016 thematic focus. Through a consultative process, members voted the 2016 theme to be the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Members also discussed proposed changes to the governance structure, working group roles, decision-making and communication processes. The emphasis was put on how best to apply lessons learned to reinforce network objectives and facilitate the move to the 2030 Global Development Agenda.

The afternoon GPEVAC consultation session was facilitated by Save the Children Canada and UNICEF Canada, which included a discussion with a representative of Global Affairs Canada and member of the GPEVAC Interim Advisory Group. The facilitators presented on the background and context of the partnership, the outline of the Zero Draft Strategy and the format for the consultation. The feedback from participants was then translated into an official submission from Canadian civil society to the GPEVAC, noting that the submission report reflects the general discussion and does not assign specific comments to participating individuals or organizations.

Key takeaways from the ICPNC-led Canadian civil society response include ensuring that the protection sector does not cause direct or indirect harm to children and young people; mainstreaming child-centered approaches that ensure that children play active and meaningful roles across all levels of the Partnership; including gender as an additional stand-alone principle; and expand on the mandate of the Partnership in addressing gender-based violence.

Financial Report 2016

The ICPNC is funded by network membership fees that are calculated based on the size and type of member organization.

2016 Annual Report			
	Membership	SCC- CLW Expenses	Total
Balance B/f Previous year	5,047.22		5,047.22
Funds Received during the Year	3,595.00	500.00	4,095.00
	8,642.22	500.00	9,142.22
Expenses			
Co-ordinator Support Staff	643.88	500.00	1,143.88
Travel Exp			-
Communication Exp	37.57		37.57
Conference Meeting/Meals	545.59		545.59
	1,227.04	500.00	1,727.04
Balance Carried Forward	7,415.18	-	7,415.18

List of Member Organizations and Individuals



Active Members

- Canadian Red Cross
- Christian's Children Fund of Canada
- Equitas
- Partners in Technology Exchange
- Plan International Canada
- Right to Play
- Save The Children Canada
- UNICEF Canada
- War Child Canada
- World Vision Canada



Participating Members

- Care Canada
- Compassion Canada
- International Bureau for Children's Rights
- International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD)
- MEDA



Individual Members

- Alana Kapell
- Joanna Wedge
- Monica Ruiz Casares (MgGill University)
- Nicole Petrowski (UNICEF)
- Tara M. Collins (Ryerson University)