



# CWLC LBEC

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



ANNUAL REPORT 2013

## Letter from the 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 now have over 150 members who include community agencies, provincial & territorial governments, universities and child advocates, representing all of the provinces and territories in Canada. These members play a key role in helping us identify and address child welfare, children's mental health and youth justice issues in all jurisdictions across the country, and we are grateful for their participation and support.

The CWLC has been very active promoting the interests of vulnerable children, youth and their families. CWLC board members and executives have met with Members of Parliament, cabinet ministers and senior officials from many federal and provincial/territorial departments and agencies to discuss a variety of topics in our continued effort to improve services and supports to children and youth. The CWLC remains committed to raising and addressing the issues that are most important to our members with public officials, policy makers, thought leaders, the public and the media. We continue to emphasize the importance of partnerships—with our members, with governments and with local, regional, national and international organizations—in our commitment to address the challenges facing vulnerable children, youth and families.

Over the past year the CWLC continued to work on strengthening services for children and youth through a number of projects, including: Saskatchewan Flexible Response Pilot; South African Child Protection Surveillance Study; Every

Child Matters; Alberta Child Intervention Project; and the Excellence in Children's Service Webinar Series. Each of these initiatives has generated constructive results for the communities served. As well, CWLC continues to play a role highlighting promising Canadian practices through its strategic engagement with the International Forum for Child Welfare (IFCW), an international non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting the rights and well-being of children globally.

Membership engagement is a defining focus for the Child Welfare League. This will continue to be a priority for our organization as we seek to expand our membership base and redouble our efforts at serving and engaging our member organizations.

The challenges facing vulnerable children and youth are complex and multi-faceted. With help from members, the CWLC will increase its collective effort to produce a strong national voice for vulnerable children and youth in Canada throughout the year ahead.

Sincerely yours,



**Dennis Dandeneau**  
*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 Areas of Focus

- Child welfare;
- Child and youth mental health;
- Youth criminal justice.

## CWLC Strategic Plan 2013–2018

Our newly refreshed strategic priorities:

- Advance CWLC as a national membership organization
- Advance the rights and interests of children, youth and their families as per the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- Address overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and families in child welfare, mental health and youth criminal justice domains
- Increase capacity of domestic and international child and family service systems regarding child welfare, mental health and youth justice
- Strengthen our partnerships in child welfare, mental health and youth criminal justice

# Strengthening Services for Children, Youth and Families

The CWLC works throughout the year on projects and activities that support and give practical expression to the strategic plan and vision of the organization. The key projects that CWLC led or materially contributed to during 2013 are highlighted below.

## Saskatchewan Flexible Response Pilot Project

The CWLC assisted in the development of technical, informational and procedural documents for the Saskatchewan Child Welfare Review. The CWLC has been providing technical advice to assist in the design, planning, implementation and critical assessment of the Saskatchewan Flexible Response pilot since 2011.

In 2013 CWLC continued its work with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Social Services and a host of community partners including the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan and Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations to advance a common understanding of child welfare transformation. During the year the CWLC conducted community engagement meetings and workshops. These engagements generated vibrant debate among partners regarding the pathways that should be considered in moving ahead with meaningful transformation.

In addition support and technical assistance has been provided to the Pilot Project Evaluation Committee. A policy work group was created and a *Flexible Response Policy and Procedures Manual* was completed in the fall of 2013. The Manual will continue to be assessed and monitored as the project moves forward.

## Champions for Children and Youth - 2013 Summit

Working in partnership with the British Columbia Representative for Children and Youth and the Canadian Red Cross, CWLC played a lead role in convening a national two-day summit on Children

and Youth in Vancouver, BC in the spring of 2013. Over 300 delegates from across Canada attended. The Summit attracted a diverse audience comprised of: child advocates, child welfare workers, youth, teachers and school officials, and representatives from child and youth serving sports organizations. The Summit explored the various ways our communities can help keep children safe and hosted stimulating exchanges on ways to engage children and youth in making positive choices about schooling, employment, recreation, and life style issues.

## Every Child Matters

The first of its kind in Canada, Every Child Matters (ECM), is a national project on foster parenting in Canada. A major component of the project is the data collection and documentation phase which entails administering the foster parent field survey nationally. The data collection phase of the project was successfully completed in 2013. Survey returns from all provinces and territories were collected and the response rate was very encouraging. Working with a team of leading researchers drawn from the University of Western Ontario and University of Ottawa the data analysis work began in late 2013. The data analysis will provide an empirical understanding of the most persistent national barriers standing in the way of foster parent retention and recruitment, and it may illuminate some of the opportunities for enhancements to the system. It is expected that the data generated through this important national project will provide evidence to inform for public policy and practice in the years to come. The Final Report is currently under review and it is expected that it will be distributed in the spring of 2014.

## Young People Transitioning Out of Care

Partnering with the Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates the CWLC assisted in documenting and analyzing the array of available income security and transition programs in Canada for young people transitioning out of care. The partnership was focused on identifying the unique challenges this population faces, as well as, developing recommendations for improvements to the current financial, educational and psycho-social situation of youth transitioning out of care.

## Children and Youth in Challenging Circumstances (CYCC)

The CWLC was engaged by the Children and Youth in Challenging Circumstances Network to provide technical assistance with the knowledge mobilization imperative of the CYCC Network. Children and youth can experience common risks to their mental health, this is particularly pronounced when they live in challenging contexts characterized by family violence, child maltreatment, child labour, war and other adversities.

These shared risks and threats can be better addressed when researchers, service providers, practitioners and communities share their knowledge, resources and lessons learned around how to best improve the mental health of children and young people. Working across disciplinary and sectoral boundaries is challenging. The CYCC Network was

established in January 2012 to facilitate knowledge mobilization nationally across sectors through promoting the use of research, best and promising practices, and local knowledge in mental health programming for vulnerable and at-risk young people.

## Alberta Child Intervention Project

The Child Welfare League of Canada (CWLC) was retained by Alberta Human Services to advise and assist the Government of Alberta in its efforts to improve and strengthen its Child Death Review System. A key focus of the Project is directed to identifying, documenting and addressing challenges with current practice.

The CWLC was invited to play a leadership role in the Alberta Child Intervention Roundtable that was convened by the Minister of Alberta Human Services Manmeet Bhullar in Edmonton, Alberta in January 2014. In support of the Roundtable CWLC developed an *Options Paper on the Child Intervention System in Alberta*. Research conducted in support of the Options Paper examined several international models of child death review including those that are employed in New Zealand, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

An interjurisdictional scan of child death review and reporting practices in the provinces and territories was also undertaken to inform the development of the Options Paper.

## Multimedia Textbook on Aboriginal Issues

Productions Cazabon, in partnership with CWLC and the Aboriginal Healing Foundation (AHF) is developing the first phase of a multimedia textbook to engage secondary and post-secondary students in an exploration of the complex social issues that continue to plague First Nation communities.

The two key components of the multimedia textbook are: an interactive component including clips from the film *3rd World Canada* and personal narratives from residential school survivors with links to online materials and a teacher guide complemented with a student workbook containing written reference material and reflective activities. Using a module approach both contemporary issues and historical roots will be explored.

## Youth Justice Film

Productions Cazabon, in partnership with the CWLC, the Law Foundation of Ontario and the Ontario Justice Education Network (OJEN), is developing an engaging short documentary and multi-media viewer guide about youth navigating Ontario's Youth Justice System. This Youth Justice Film Project will help educate youth in institutions, youth in care, and at-risk youth to create a more accessible youth justice system. This project will also be an educational tool for frontline workers and youth justice organizations to provide in-depth and personal insight into the experiences of youth in Ontario's justice system, which cannot always be adequately expressed solely through statistics

and research based data.

## South African Child Protection Project

The CWLC has been working in collaboration with the South African Department of Social Development (DSD) to enhance the provision of child welfare services and the development of national data collection and analysis system on child abuse. In 2013, in addition to providing technical advice the CWLC developed Knowledge Exchange and Partnership Development Strategies

for the Department of Social Development. The Surveillance Study has continued to move forward and the appointment in 2013 of the National Research Team marks a landmark development in the commitment to establishing a national surveillance capacity in child abuse.

Technical assistance work will continue in 2014 as the CWLC will design, develop and present a sustainability costing to support ongoing surveillance and research in child abuse by the Government of South Africa.



## Partnerships

The CWLC is engaged in a number of significant partnerships both nationally and internationally. Through our partnerships we are able to magnify the reach and impact of the work we do and the policy positions we promote. Our partnerships also provide opportunities to highlight the practices and programs of our member organizations.

### Youth in Care Canada (also known as National Youth in Care Network)

Youth in Care Canada (YCC) is co-located with the CWLC. They are a vibrant organization driven by youth and alumni from care. Youth in Care Canada's mandate is well summarized in their slogan, '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.

### Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)

The CWLC and the CWLA have had 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, conferences and training.

### **International Forum for 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 represents a commitment by IFCW's Members to work for the fulfillment of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in every

nation and is to be achieved through the strengthening of nongovernmental child welfare organisations worldwide in their direct and indirect service to children and families.

The CWLC holds the Treasurer position for the International Forum for Child Welfare and has been instrumental in supporting the Forum's operational and planning agenda.

## **Knowledge Mobilization**

The CWLC participated in and contributed to the following key knowledge mobilization events in 2013:

- **Children and Youth in Challenging Contexts (CYCC) National Consultation**, Halifax, Nova Scotia
- **Knowledge Mobilization Consultation**, CYCC, Toronto, Ontario
- **Social Innovation in the NGO Sector**, National Alliance for Children and Youth (NACY), Ottawa, Ontario
- **Policy Forum on Migrant Children**, International Forum for Child Welfare, New York City, N.Y, U.S.A.
- **Strategic Planning Session**, International Forum for Child Welfare, Pretoria, South Africa
- **Strategic Action Injury Research (S.T.A.I.R)**, Strategic Visioning Consultation, Montréal, Quebec
- **Quakers' Youth Justice Consultation**, Toronto, Ontario

### **Excellence in Children's Services Webinar Series**

In partnership with Children and Youth in Challenging Contexts Network, Dalhousie University, UNICEF Canada and Government of Canada's Networks of Centers of Excellence, the **Excellence in Children's Services Webinar Series** was launched during the fall of 2013. The design of the series is to disseminate current innovative thinking and transform the way information is shared between professionals, academics, youth, government policy makers and the public.

Speakers featured in 2013 included: David Rivard, Chief Executive Officer, Children's Aid Society of Toronto; Dr. Alan Leschied, Psychologist and Professor, Faculty of Education, University of Western Ontario; and, Lisa Wolff, Director, Policy and Education, UNICEF Canada.

### **Mental Health Knowledge Network (MHKN) Webinar Series**

**The Mental Health Knowledge Network Webinar Series**, which 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, generated a great deal of interest over 2013. Developed in association with 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 conducted in both English and French and were very well attended. The series featured: Dr. Arnie Slive, Licensed Psychologist, Fulbright Scholar and Dr. Delphine Collin-Vézina, School of Social Work, McGill University.

# Membership Engagement

## Listening to Members from Coast to Coast to Coast

As a membership-based organization the CWLC is committed to connecting with its membership and connecting members to members from coast to coast to coast through knowledge exchanges. Throughout 2013 the CWLC hosted roundtables and panel discussions across the nation. Webinar series were launched to connect both members and

non-members with professionals, academics, youth, government policy makers.

Roundtables and Panel Discussions were held in British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, and Quebec creating the opportunity to explore, discuss and debate various topics and issues relating to vulnerable children and youth.

February 28, 2013	<b>CWLC Knowledge Exchange Panel, Ottawa, Ontario</b> Theme: Aboriginal Child Welfare Issues
April 25, 2013	<b>CWLC Roundtable, Vancouver, British Columbia</b> Theme: The Role of Government and Child-Serving Organizations in Keeping Kids Safe
June 20, 2013	<b>CWLC Knowledge Exchange Panel, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador</b> Theme: Continuum of Care in Newfoundland and Labrador
September 20, 2013	<b>CWLC Roundtable, Toronto, Ontario</b> Theme: Aboriginal Child and Family Services
November 14, 2013	<b>CWLC Knowledge Exchange Panel, Montréal, Québec</b> Theme: Window into Social Services in Québec

## CWLC Members

### Valuing Our Members

CWLC is proud of its accomplishments over the last year and many of the accomplishments are due to the dedication and active participation of our members, partners and Board of Directors.

We recognize that Canada continues to face many obstacles in ensuring inclusion, opportunity and support for children and young people who have faced trauma, disadvantage or other challenges in their lives. The future of our country is profoundly impacted by the eventual outcomes of our

collective efforts. Building and supporting a strong national organization such as CWLC promotes the cooperation required to achieve positive outcomes for all children and youth.

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.



## CWLC Achievement Awards

The winners of the 2013 CWLC Achievement Awards were announced in March 2014 in Ottawa, Ontario.

CWLC would like to thank all members who nominated deserving candidates in all five categories. The awards and winners were:

- Advocacy Award : Marie Christian, *Winnipeg, Manitoba*
- Children's Services Award : Youth-in-Transition Team, *Covenant House, Toronto, Ontario*
- Foster Parent Award : Marguerite Tanguay and Serge Trépanier, *Montréal, Quebec*
- Research and Program Excellence Award : Batshaw Youth and Family Centres, *Montréal, Quebec*
- Youth Achievement Award : Jasmine Ramcharitar-Brown, *Montréal, Quebec*

### Sustaining Members

Alberta Human Services (AB), Batshaw Youth and Family Centres (QC), Catholic Social Services (AB), Centre jeunesse de Montréal - Institut universitaire(QC), Child Development Institute (ON), Children's Aid Society of Toronto (ON), Infant Mental Health Promotion (ON), Kinark Child and Family Services (ON), Ministry of Children and Youth Services (ON), Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (ON), Peel Children's Centre (ON), Ranch Ehrlo Society (SK), Wood's Homes (AB)

### National Members

Aboriginal Healing Foundation  
Canadian Accreditation Council  
Canadian Foster Family Association  
Canadian Red Cross  
Canadian Society for the Investigation of Child Abuse  
Children's Aid Foundation  
Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities  
Public Health Agency of Canada-Injury and Maltreatment Section  
SOS Children's Villages Canada  
UNICEF Canada

### Alberta

Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research  
Alberta Foster Parent Association  
Aspen Family  
Bosco Homes  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Calgary  
Calgary and Area Child and Family Services

Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health  
Children's Cottage Society of Calgary  
Closer to Home Community Services  
Edmonton and Area Child and Family Services  
Enviros Wilderness School Association  
Faculty of Social Work - University of Calgary  
Hull Services  
McMan Youth Family and Community Services Association  
Mountain Plains Community Services Society  
Office of the Child and Youth Advocate  
Parkland Youth Homes Society  
Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre  
The Alberta Association of Services for Children and Families  
The Family Centre of Northern Alberta

YWCA Calgary

### British Columbia

British Columbia Injury Research and Prevention Unit  
British Columbia Representative for Children and Youth  
CHOICES Adoption and Counselling Agency  
Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver  
Family Services Greater Vancouver  
Indigenous Perspectives Society (Caring for First Nations Children Society)  
Ministry of Children and Family Development - Government of British Columbia  
Pacific Community Resources Services  
School of Social Work - University of British Columbia  
Sources Community Resource Centres  
The Bridge Youth & Family Services Society  
The Children's Foundation

W.J. Stelmaschuk & Associates  
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### **Manitoba**

Child and Family Services of  
Western Manitoba  
Department of Child and Family  
Services - Government of  
Manitoba  
Métis Child, Family and  
Community Services  
Office of the Children's  
Advocate  
Winnipeg Child and Family  
Services  
Winnipeg Children's Advocacy  
Centre

### **New Brunswick**

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

### **Newfoundland and Labrador**

Advocate for Children and  
Youth  
Department of Child, Youth and  
Family Services - Government  
of Newfoundland and  
Labrador  
Key Assets Newfoundland and  
Labrador  
Newfoundland and Labrador  
Foster Families Association  
School of Social Work -  
Memorial University of  
Newfoundland

### **Nova Scotia**

Annapolis District Office - Child  
Welfare  
Council of Chairs for Nova  
Scotia Community Child  
Welfare Boards  
HomeBridge Youth Society  
IWK Health Centre

Lunenburg District Office -  
Government of Nova Scotia  
Mental Health, Children's  
Services & Addictions  
Treatment Branch - Department  
of Health and Wellness  
Municipality of the District of  
Shelburne  
Nova Scotia Council for the  
Family  
Nova Scotia Department of  
Community Services - Cape  
Breton-Victoria  
Nova Scotia Department  
of Community Services -  
Cumberland  
Nova Scotia Department of  
Community Services - Digby  
Nova Scotia Department of  
Community Services - Halifax  
District Office  
Nova Scotia Department of  
Community Services -  
Inverness Richmond  
Nova Scotia Department of  
Community Services -  
Kentville  
Nova Scotia Department of  
Community Services - Pictou  
Nova Scotia Department of  
Community Services - Queens  
County  
Nova Scotia Department of  
Community Services -  
Western Regional Office  
Nova Scotia Department of  
Community Services -  
Yarmouth  
Nova Scotia Office of the  
Ombudsman  
The Federation of Foster  
Families of Nova Scotia

### **Nunavut**

Department of Family Services -  
Government of Nunavut

### **Northwest Territories**

Department of Health and  
Social Services - Government  
of Northwest Territories

### **Ontario**

Aisling Discoveries Child and Family  
Centre  
Astwood Strategy Corporation  
Bayfield Treatment Centres  
Blue Hills Child and Family Centre  
Boost Child Abuse Prevention and  
Intervention  
Bruce Grey Child and Family  
Services  
Catholic Children's Aid Society of  
Toronto  
Centre for Children and Families in  
the Justice System  
Centre for Research and Education  
on Violence Against Women and  
Children  
Centre for Research on Educational  
and Community Services -  
University of Ottawa  
Chatham-Kent Children's Services  
Children Aid Society of the United  
Counties of Stormont, Dundas  
and Glengarry  
Children's Aid Society of Brant  
Children's Aid Society of London  
and Middlesex  
Children's Aid Society of Ottawa  
Children's Aid Society of Simcoe  
County  
Children's Mental Health Ontario  
Community Living Toronto  
Covenant House Toronto  
Durham Children's Aid Society  
Faculty of Social Work - University  
of Toronto  
Family and Children's Services of  
Guelph and Wellington  
Family and Children's Services of  
Lanark, Leeds and Grenville  
First People's Group  
Key Assets Fostering  
Lutherwood  
Native Child and Family Services of  
Toronto  
Office of the Provincial Advocate  
Peel Children's Aid Society  
Prince Edward Children's Aid  
Society  
Renfrew Family and Children's  
Services

Stepping Stones Foster Care  
The Hincks-Dellcrest Centre  
Valoris for Children and Adults of  
Prescott-Russell  
West Scarborough Neighbourhood  
Community Centre  
Windsor Regional Hospital  
Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa

#### **Prince Edward Island**

Community Services and Seniors  
- Government of Prince Edward  
Island

#### **Québec**

Association des centres jeunesse  
du Québec  
Centre jeunesse de l'Abitibi  
Témiscamingue

Centre jeunesse de la Mauricie  
Centre jeunesse de la Montérégie  
Centre jeunesse de Laval  
Centre jeunesse de l'Outaouais  
Centre jeunesse de Québec -  
Institut universitaire  
Centre jeunesse Gaspésie-les-Iles

#### **Saskatchewan**

Faculty of Social Work -  
University of Regina  
Lac La Ronge Indian Child and  
Family Services Agency  
Ministry of Social Services -  
Government of Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Advocate for  
Children and Youth  
Saskatchewan First Nations  
Family and Community Institute

#### **Yukon**

Department of Health and Social  
Services - Government of Yukon  
Yukon Child and Youth Advocate

#### **International**

Child Welfare League of America  
Council On Accreditation

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- Youth in Care Canada.



# CWLC Financial Statements

(Year end: March 31, 2013)

## Statement of Financial Position at March 31, 2013

	2013	2012
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash	\$ 58,582	\$ 76,248
Short-term investments	177,074	367,873
Accounts receivable	193,878	274,768
Prepaid expenses	11,909	23,455
	441,443	742,344
<b>Capital assets</b>		
	112	2,138
	\$ 441,555	\$ 744,482
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 80,984	\$ 95,000
Deferred revenue	192,552	249,477
	273,536	344,477
<b>Net assets</b>		
Internally restricted to		
Contingency fund	\$ 168,019	227,776
Unrestricted	-	172,229
	168,019	400,005
	\$ 441,555	\$ 744,482

## Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Year ended March 31, 2013

	2013	2012
<b>Revenue</b>		
Membership	\$ 325,226	\$ 333,839
Children's Aid Foundation	100,000	100,000
RBC Foundation	-	12,500
Other	18,963	32,844
Contracts and projects	801,151	1,058,679
<b>Total revenue</b>	\$ 1,245,380	\$ 1,537,862
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Operating cost		
Personnel	\$ 939,295	\$ 764,825
Office and overhead	106,916	145,627
Communications	37,914	40,867
Travel, accomodation and meetings	68,321	115,101
Project expenditure	630,838	871,959
Project and administrative recoveries	(305,918)	(403,688)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	\$ 1,477,366	\$ 1,534,691
<b>Net revenue for the year</b>	\$ (231,986)	\$ 3,171

*Completed audited financial statements are available upon request.*