

Summit Schedule



Schedule Overview

DAY 1: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th

- 11:30 am - 6:00 pm Registration and Information
- 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm **Opening Ceremony with Elder Vince Kicknosway**
- 1:00 pm - 2:45 pm **Launch of the 10-Year Anniversary Update of the 2025 Position Statement on Outdoor Play**
with special remarks from: Dr. Emil Prikryl, Associate Medical Officer of Health at Ottawa Public Health, and Martin Sampson, CEO of the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association
- 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm **Concurrent Sessions - Block 1** ⌚
- 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm Outdoor Exhibit Area
- 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm Speed Greeting and Networking
- 6:15 pm - 8:00 pm **Dinner and time to play!** 🍴
- 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm Evening Activities around the Campfire

DAY 2: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th

- 7:30 am - 9:00 am **Breakfast and morning activities** 🍴
Smudging with Elder Norma Peltier
- 8:00 am - 6:00 pm Registration and Information
- 9:00 am - 10:00 am **Morning Welcome with Elder Norma Peltier and OPC Awards Presentation**
- 10:00 am - 11:30 am **Keynote Address**
- 11:30 am - 2:30 pm Outdoor Exhibit Area
- 12:15 pm - 2:00 pm **Lunch** 🍴
- 2:15 pm - 3:55 pm **Concurrent Sessions - Block 2** ⌚
- 4:15 pm - 5:55 pm **Concurrent Sessions - Block 3** ⌚
- 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm **Dinner and time to play!** 🍴
- 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm Evening Activities around the Campfire

DAY 3: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th

- 7:30 am - 9:00 am **Breakfast and morning activities** 🍴
Nature Healing Salve with Elder Norma Peltier
- 8:30 am - 1:00 pm Registration and Information
- 9:15 am - 11:45 am **Tours of Forest Explorers, Home of the Canadian Centre for Outdoor Play**
- 9:15 am - 11:15 am **Concurrent Sessions - Block 4** ⌚
- 11:45 am - 12:15 pm Closing Ceremony

Summit Schedule

Day 1: Thursday, September 25th

Registration and Information

Registration and Information Tent

11:30 am - 6:00 pm

The check-in and registration tent will be open each day of the summit. Be sure to stop by the registration tent when you first arrive! We have lots of important information to share with you, plus some fun goodies! You will also find a copy of the Book of Abstracts and the detailed schedule (if you want to keep things low tech), a quiet area to rest and recharge, maps of the site, and prompts to guide you on the mindfulness trail, and so much more! **Have questions, need help?** Stop by the information tent where there will be volunteers ready to assist you!

Opening Ceremony

The Big Tent

12:30 pm - 1:00 pm

We are honoured to welcome Elder Vince Kicknosway in partnership with Mādahōki Farm to help us open the summit in a good way and acknowledge the Land we gather on, where we will spend the next three days learning, working, and playing together. Join us as we kick off the fourth biennial Breath of Fresh Air Outdoor Play Summit under the big tent!

Launch of the 10-Year Anniversary Update of the 2025 Position Statement on Outdoor Play and 'Play Around the World' Play Session

The Big Tent

1:00 pm - 2:45 pm

We will celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the 2015 Position Statement and the many projects, initiatives, and other successes it has inspired by launching the 2025 Position Statement on Active Outdoor Play (AOP10). AOP10 extends the original Position Statement by being global in scope, broader in scope of content, inclusive of all ages, while exploring the benefits of active outdoor play for people (of all ages, cultures and abilities), communities, environments, and the planet.

Concurrent Sessions - Block 1

See page 8 for details

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

During this time, there are five different concurrent session blocks taking place throughout the summit grounds. Check out the concurrent sessions - block 1 schedule on page 8 to discover what presentations, workshops, and symposiums are happening at each location.

Outdoor Exhibit Area

Shady Tree Row

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Join our poster presenters, community partners, and booth hosts in the outdoor exhibit area to learn more about what they do.

Speed Greeting and Networking

Shady Tree Row

5:15 pm - 6:15 pm

Come meet our poster presenters and booth hosts in 2-minute bites with more time to connect with them tomorrow over lunch.

Dinner

The Pavilion

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Join us for a delicious meal served at the pavilion. Find a place to eat under the Big Tent or grab your sit pad and sit under the wide open sky! During this time, we also encourage you to connect with fellow summit attendees or enjoy a peaceful walk down one of the many park trails. If you're looking for suggestions or a map, ask a volunteer; they are ready to help!

Campfire Fun

The Campfire

8:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Join us around the campfire for songs and storytelling.

Additional Activities

available throughout the summit

Legacy of Hope Foundation Exhibit - A National Crime: The Residential School System in Canada

Take a quiet moment to reflect and experience the LHF exhibit, thoughtfully sponsored by IPA Canada.

Mindful Trail

Connect with the Land and Nature around you by enjoying a peaceful walk down one of the many park trails. If you're looking for suggestions or a map, stop by the Info Tent; volunteers are ready to help.

Free Play in the Field

Have fun in the field where you'll find all kinds of games and materials to experiment with.

Summit Schedule

Day 2: Friday, September 26th

Guided Morning Hike

The Campfire

7:30 am - 8:15 am

Meet us at the Campfire at 7:30 am for a morning hike through the Wesley Clover Park trails.

Breakfast

The Pavilion

7:30 am - 9:00 am

Breakfast will be served at the Pavilion from 7:30 to 9:00 am.

Smudging with Elder Norma Peltier

The Campfire

~8:00 am

Norma invites you to join her for a traditional smudging to begin the day.

Registration and Information

Registration and Information Tent

8:00 am - 6:00 pm

The check-in and registration tent will be open each day of the summit. Be sure to stop by the registration tent when you first arrive! We have lots of important information to share with you, plus some fun goodies! You will also find a copy of the Book of Abstracts and the detailed schedule (if you want to keep things low tech), a quiet area to rest and recharge, maps of the site, and prompts to guide you on the mindfulness trail, and so much more! **Have questions, need help?** Stop by the information tent where there will be volunteers ready to assist you!

Morning Welcome with Elder Norma Peltier and the Outdoor Play Canada Board of Directors, and OPC Awards Presentation

The Big Tent

9:00 am - 10:00 am

We will start our day in a good way with a Land Acknowledgement by Elder Norma Peltier, a band member of the Wikwemikong First Nations, who has devoted her time as a waterwalker since 2014, and as a grandmother and spiritual advisor working extensively with youth across Canada and different communities. Followed by an introduction of the Outdoor Play Canada Board of Directors, and a celebration of individuals and organizations across Canada that have demonstrated exceptional commitment and leadership in the promotion of outdoor play, as we present the OPC Awards.

Keynote Address

The Big Tent

10:00 am - 11:30 am

Listen to Dr. Stuart Brown, Lauren Sundstrom, and Mia Sundstrom discuss how play is hardwired into the brain. In this keynote, you'll learn about what happens in the brain when we play. Consider this an evidence-packed invitation to add play back into your life, your learning, and your teaching.

Outdoor Exhibit Area

Shady Tree Row

11:30 am - 2:30 pm

Join our poster presenters, community partners, and booth hosts in the outdoor exhibit area to learn more about what they do.

Lunch

The Pavilion

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Lunch will be served at the Pavilion from 12:00 to 2:00 pm. During this time, we also encourage you to explore the materials and play some games in the field, or enjoy a peaceful walk down one of the many park trails. If you're looking for suggestions or a map, stop by the Info Tent; volunteers are ready to help!

Nature Journaling

Shady Tree Row

12:45 pm - 2:00 pm & 2:30 pm - 3:55 pm

Take a moment to connect with the Land and Nature around you. If you're new to nature journaling, now's the time to learn!

Concurrent Sessions - Block 2

See page 9 for details

2:15 pm - 3:55 pm

Concurrent Sessions - Block 3

See page 10 for details

4:15 pm - 5:55 pm

During this time, there are five different concurrent session blocks taking place throughout the summit grounds. Check out the concurrent session block schedules on page 9 and 10 to discover what presentations, workshops, and symposiums are happening at each location.

Dinner

The Pavilion

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Join us for a delicious meal served at the pavillion. Find a place to eat under the Big Tent or grab your sit pad and sit under the wide open sky!

Campfire Fun

The Campfire

8:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Gather around the campfire for songs and storytelling.

Summit Schedule

Day 3: Saturday, September 27th

Breakfast

The Pavilion

7:30 am - 9:00 am

Breakfast will be served at the Pavilion from 7:30 to 9:00 am.

Nature Healing Salve with Elder Norma Peltier

The Campfire

~8:00 am

Join Norma as she creates a healing salve and invites you to make your own - complete with recipe card to take home - thanks, Norma!

Registration and Information

Registration and Information Tent

8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Have questions, need help? Stop by the information tent.

Tours of Forest Explorers Childcare Centre, and Home of the Canadian Centre for Outdoor Play

Forest Explorers

9:15 am - 11:45 am

Curious to explore the new Forest Explorers Childcare Centre? Now is your chance! Discover the beautiful indoor and outdoor spaces that make Forest Explorers such a unique program.

Concurrent Sessions - Block 4

See page 11 for details

9:15 am - 11:15 am

Check out the concurrent session block 4 schedule on page 11 to discover what presentations, workshops, and symposiums are happening at each location.

Closing Ceremony

The Big Tent

11:45 am - 12:15 pm

All good things must come to an end. Join us in wrapping up another successful Breath of Fresh Air Outdoor Play Summit!

Concurrent Sessions - Block 1

Day 1: Thursday 25th - 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

	3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	3:30 pm - 4:00 pm	4:00 pm - 4:30 pm	4:30 pm - 5:00pm
Block 1A The Big Tent	Risky Teaching: A Research to Practice Guide for Risky Play in Schools <i>Dr. Megan Zeni, Dr. Mariana Brussoni</i>			
Block 1B The OFNS Cabin	'The State of Play in Outdoor Play': Exploring Global Indigenous Knowledge of Outdoor Play: A scoping review <i>River McRae; Geoff Kira</i>	Introducing a Global Measure of Outdoor Time for Young People: The Global Adolescent and Child Physical Activity Questionnaire (GAC-PAQ) Project <i>Richard Larouche, PhD</i>	Rooted in Justice & Belonging: Living the ECE Framework through Land, Relationship, and Practice <i>Lisa Lalonde, RECE; Pooja Dubey, RECE; Bayan Kaid, RECE</i>	
Block 1C The Yurt	The Giving Tree: A Metis Learning Workshop <i>Angie-Lee Coture</i>		"I remember when": A Reflective Lifeworld Approach to Understanding the Relationship Between Early Childhood Educator Play Beliefs and Professional Identity <i>Merril Miceli, M.Ed. Doctoral Student</i>	
Block 1D The Wolves' Den	Designed to Stay Inside: How Tech Works Against Outdoor Access <i>Rachel Franz, M.Ed.</i>	Adopting a Perspective of Affordances in Children's Play Spaces <i>Ipek Epikmen, M. Sc. A.</i>	Living & Learning with Nature: A Permaculture Project Based Approach to Outdoor Play Space Design <i>Cara Caudle, M.Ed, RECE</i>	
Block 1E The Playground	Outdoor Learning for Students with Complex Needs: All You Need is An Open Mind! <i>Carolyn Johnston; Carolyn Fornataro</i>		Embracing Nature in Early Childhood with PLT Canada's "Trees & Me" Guide <i>Ellen Long</i>	

Symposium

Presentation

Workshop

Concurrent Sessions - Block 2

Day 2: Friday 26th - 2:15 pm - 3:55 pm

	2:15 pm - 2:45 pm	2:55 pm - 3:55 pm
	2:15 pm - 3:00 pm	3:10 pm - 3:55 pm
Block 2A The Big Tent	Working Wild: Outdoor Mentorship and Training <i>Monique Lozeron</i>	
Block 2B The OFNS Cabin	What is the Relationship between Outdoor Risky Play and Health in Children? Results from a Systematic Review. <i>Dr. Mariana Brussoni</i>	The Role of Weapon Play in Early Childhood: Social-Emotional Learning Through Imaginative Play <i>Shelley Bettker, Certified Forest and Nature School Practitioner, ECE2, B. Ed.</i>
Block 2C The Yurt	Wondering With Water <i>Laurel Donison</i>	Digging In: How Outdoor Loose Parts Play Supports the Roots for Self- Regulation, Connection and Growth in Young Children <i>Jill Bienenstock</i>
Block 2D The Wolves' Den		Learning Kits for Inclusive Outdoor Play <i>Amy Jo Smith, RECE; Paula ter Huurne, RECE</i>
Block 2E The Playground	A Partnered Approach to Understanding the Benefits of Schoolyard Greening <i>Jean Buckler, PhD; Jennie McCaffrey, MA</i>	Changing the Recess Culture <i>Lynn Campanella</i>
Block 2 Shady Tree Row	Nature Journaling <i>Amy Agostini</i> *also offered from 12:45 to 2:00	

Symposium

Presentation

Workshop

Concurrent Sessions - Block 3

Day 2: Friday 26th - 4:15 pm - 5:55 pm

	4:15 pm - 4:45 pm	4:50 pm - 5:20 pm	5:25 pm - 5:55 pm
Block 3A The Big Tent	The English-language launch of A 360° Vision of Play: A Tool that Helps Decision Makers Better Plan for Play <i>Stéphanie Watt, Margaret Fraser</i>		
Block 3B The OFNS Cabin	Bridging Research-to-Practice on Quality Participation in Active Play for Children and Young Persons with Disabilities Across Different Contexts <i>Kelly Arbour-Nicitopoulos, Jennifer Leo, Louise de Lannoy</i>		
Block 3C The Yurt	Journey through Childcare, Burnout, and Finding Outdoor Play <i>Lori Dalton</i>	Campfire Circle <i>Maddie Rawling</i>	EmbraceWellness <i>Arlene Lusterio</i>
Block 3D The Wolves' Den	Case Study of a School-Level Approach to Outdoor Learning: A Study Protocol and Immersive Exploration of Walking Interviews <i>Tanya Halsall, Laurel Donison</i>	Nature Beyond Nature: Implementing Forest School Pedagogy With Limited Access to Nature <i>Monique Lozeron</i>	
Block 3E The Playground	Infants and Toddlers Open to the Outside World in Early Childhood <i>Sylvie Melsbach</i>	Insights from the Sending Preschoolers Outside (SPROUT) Study: Understanding the Impact and Lessons Learned from Nature-Based Childcare Research <i>Maeghan James, PhD</i>	Landscape of Outdoor Play in Early Learning and Child Care Environments: Insights from the Measuring Early Childhood Outside (MECO) Pan-Canadian Survey <i>Rachel Ramsden</i>

Symposium

Presentation

Workshop

Concurrent Sessions - Block 4

Day 3: Saturday 27th - 9:15 am - 11:45 am

	9:15 am - 9:45 am	9:45 am - 10:45 am
	9:15 am - 10:15 am	10:15 am - 11:15
Block 4A The Big Tent	Outdoor Ways of Learning and Sharing (OWLS): A collaboration to bring learning outside to build resilient school communities in Northeastern Ontario <i>Heather Dabrowski, Eileen Berwick, Josee Bisson, Coral Bissett</i>	
Block 4B The OFNS Cabin	Math Trails, Micro-Stories & Learning Reflections <i>Lauren Maclean</i>	Promoting the Foundations of Literacy Outdoors <i>Jill Bienenstock</i>
Block 4C The Yurt	'There Are So Many Good Things Outside, Let Me Tell You': Children's Qualitative Perspectives of Outdoor and Risky Play at Early Learning and Child Care. <i>Rachel Ramsden</i>	May We Be Peaceful: Daily Practice for World Peace <i>Dana Fedorchuk (she/her) B.Ed, M.Ed</i>
Block 4D The Wolves' Den	Strategic Planning for Inclusive Outdoor Play <i>Alessia Capone, Trinity Lowthian</i>	Democratic Practices: Building Relational Understandings Through Land-Based Learning <i>Taryn McSherry, RECE; Alexa Imbesi, RECE; Laura Ashfield, RECE; Pooja Dubey, RECE</i>
Block 4F Forest Explorers	An Interactive National Panel Discussion: Advancing Licensing of Outdoor and Land-based Early Childhood Education Across Canada	

Symposium

Presentation

Workshop