

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canadian Association of Child and Youth Advocacy Centres Development Underway

[Ottawa, Ontario, May 10, 2024] - The Interim Governing Council of the National Network of Child and Youth Advocacy Centres is pleased to announce the start of its exciting journey toward the creation of a national association of child and youth advocacy centres (CYACs) to serve the needs of CYACs and members of the stakeholder community across Canada.

“The vision shared by all CYACs in Canada is that we live in a country where children are safe and child abuse doesn’t happen,” said Karen Orser, Co-Chair of the Interim Governing Council and CEO of Luna Child and Youth Advocacy Centre. “Until that vision is realized, we must ensure that all children and youth who experience abuse – no matter where they live in Canada – have access to the highest quality supports and services offered by the integrated teams of professionals at CYACs. This is what we aim to accomplish through the national association.”

This announcement comes on the heels of the recent approval of seed funding for the association from the Department of Justice Canada. This significant endorsement underscores the collective commitment to prioritize the rights and well-being of children and youth across Canada.

“We wouldn’t be here today without the longstanding commitment from the Department of Justice Canada to the CYAC model and we look forward to further discussions with officials about the association,” said Leah Zille, Co-chair and Executive Director of the Treehouse Child and Youth Advocacy Centre. “The Interim Governing Council looks forward to working with Association Management and Consulting Services (AMCES), CYACs, and other key partners and stakeholders from across the country to ensure a sustainable funding model is in place and the association is able to deliver on its critical mandate for years to come.”

As an independent organization, the association will dedicate itself to serving as a national voice, advancing collaboration and partnerships, and elevating consistent practices throughout the country.

AMCES has been retained by the association’s Interim Governing Council to spearhead the incorporation process and provide essential management and administrative support for the initial two years following its launch.



Initially, AMCES will undertake a consultation process involving CYACs and other stakeholders across Canada. This process aims to determine the most appropriate organizational structure for the association and identify strategies to effectively meet the evolving needs of its constituents.

The consultation process will culminate in the development of recommendations encompassing the association's governance policies, membership model, and services. Progress reports will be issued at regular intervals, and at specific milestones in this project providing stakeholders with opportunities to offer feedback and shape the direction of the association.

As a guiding principle throughout the development process, "Getting it Right", will underscore the importance of collaboration, transparency, and inclusivity in the development of the association. The input and involvement of stakeholders from diverse backgrounds will be instrumental in shaping an association that will meet the needs of all stakeholders.

For media inquiries or further information, please contact:

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About the Canadian Association of Child and Youth Advocacy Centres: The forthcoming association will be dedicated to championing the best interests of children and youth who have experienced abuse through its support of Canadian CYACs from coast to coast to coast. Its mandate is to serve as a national voice, advance collaboration and partnerships, and elevate consistent practices across CYACs.

About Association Management and Consulting Services: AMCES is a leading provider of consulting, management, and administrative support services for nonprofit organizations. With a commitment to excellence and stakeholder engagement, AMCES empowers organizations to thrive and fulfill their missions effectively.

About Child & Youth Advocacy Centres: Over forty CYACs in Canada bring together multidisciplinary teams of experts from health, law enforcement, justice, child protection, and victim services to provide children and youth a safe space to share their experiences of abuse and to receive the support they need throughout the disclosure, intervention, investigation, judicial process, and all phases of their healing journeys. This integrated model is a leap forward in child abuse intervention and prevention because CYAC teams

can share information, expertise and resources in real-time. CYACs focus on evidence-informed practices and ongoing training, constantly building the expertise and effectiveness of teams in order to mobilize the strongest possible response for children, youth, and families. As advocates, CYACs also have a collective goal to share knowledge and expertise to build engaged communities where everyone is accountable for ensuring young people are safe.

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