



Ontario Association of Young Parent Agencies

servir infants, children and young parents - together

L'Association Ontarienne des Agences pour Jeunes Parents

servir nourrissons, enfants et jeunes parents - ensemble

JUNE 2025

AT A GLANCE

- Welcome Nim K- Summer Placement Student
- Expanding Horizons - IEMHP Conference Follow Up
- Fully Funded ASQ/DSP Training *NEW DATES*
- Hanen Partnership
- Canadian Dental Care Plan Update
- Get Involved
- Resources
- Fundraising/Grants
- Significant Dates
- Professional Development

MEMBER UPDATES

Introducing Nimrah Khan – Summer Placement Student

Hello Everyone,

My name is Nim K, and I am the new (and first!) official OAYPA summer intern. I'm currently in my final semester of the Journalism Program at Centennial College. I've had the honour of contributing to some of OAYPA's previous work, including providing lived-experience input for the policy brief and strategic plan, and serving as a panelist during the recent *Building Strong Foundations* webinar discussion.

I am passionate about humanitarian work and mental health, and I strongly believe in OAYPA's mission to support young parents and their children in creating a better future—because I am one of the parents OAYPA has helped.

That's why I'm excited to be part of the team, contributing however I can to support young parents and children so they, too, can build brighter futures. I'll be working with Bev and Tamar until August, supporting communications at OAYPA.

For those who don't know me well, I'm a young mother to a four-year-old, Co-Chair of the Young Parents Advisory Committee (YPAC) at the Abiona Centre, and a journalist. I'm thrilled to collaborate with everyone, brainstorm fresh ideas, and develop content strategies that will help create a more interactive and creative online space, enriched with firsthand storytelling experiences.

I also want to share an exciting upcoming storytelling project I'll be supporting: **"10 Days in the Life of a Young Mother."**

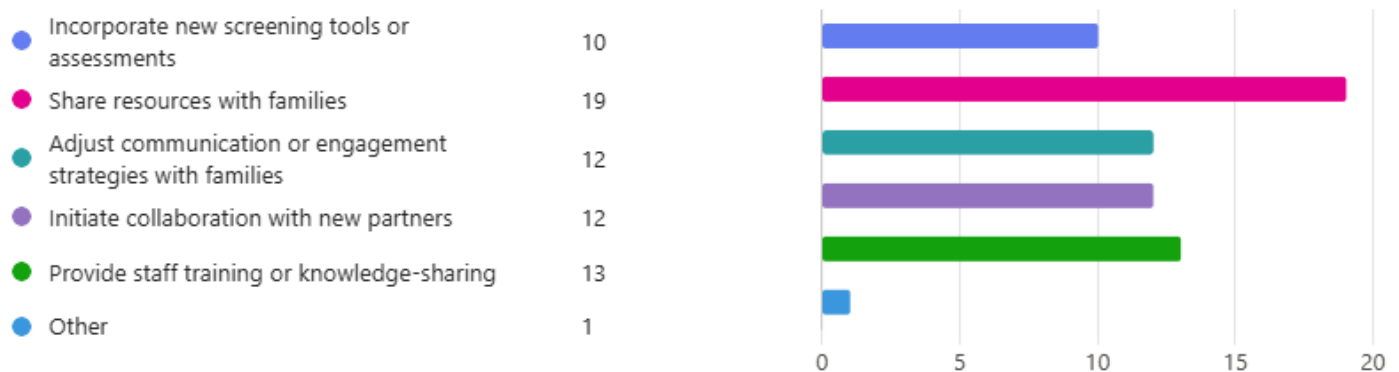
This series of 10 social media posts will explore the challenges that young mothers across Ontario face in their day-to-day lives, which can impact various factors, including bonding with children, self-identity, education, their career path, and more.

This is where I need your help! I would like to interview young parents from your agencies to bring their voices to this series. They would participate in a short call with me (less than 30 mins) and I'll ask them to share some of their thoughts (audio or video based on their preference; media consent forms will be requested). Each young parent who is interviewed will receive a modest gift card.

I want to thank a few people for making my placement possible. I have had the honor of working with Tamar Meyer for some time now, and she has been an absolute inspiration for me. I am very fortunate to have met such a beautiful soul! I am also working with Bev MacKillop and with her experience and knowledge I am truly so grateful and excited to work with the team at OAYPA and gain an abundance of knowledge and experience. Last, but not least, Ekuia Asabea Blair for giving me the opportunity and allowing me to achieve this invaluable experience. Thank you for allowing me in, and I hope I get to chat with everyone very soon! ---*"Some people want it to happen, some people wish it would happen, others make it happen."* Michael Jordan

IEMHP Expanding Horizons Conference

Through Ujima Project funding, OAYPA was able to send 24 staff and leaders from 15 OAYPA agencies to attend the 2025 IEMHP Expanding Horizons conference. OAYPA members Gillian Thompson and Tamar Meyer co-presented the ***Ujima Project – A Collaborative Approach to Improve Parental and Child Physical, Emotional and Mental Health and Build Core Competencies*** with Katelyn Mitri, Senior Research Consultant with Taylor Newberry Consulting



100% of participants said that they gained new tools, strategies or resources to apply in their work supporting young families, 95% said it strengthened connections with other OAYPA members, and highlighted a number of different ways they are planning to make changes in their practice as a result of the conference (see graph above).



Picture: Katelyn Mitri (Taylor Newberry Consulting), Gillian Thompson (Young Families Program, SickKids), Tamar Meyer (OAYPA) and fellow workshop presenter Alicia Pinelli (Young Caregivers Association)

One of the OAYPA agency staff who attended the conference was Abby Serruya, Family Support Worker at Emily Murphy Non-Profit Housing Corporation in Ottawa. Thanks, Abby, for providing a recap of your conference experience!

Mind the Gap: Building Knowledge, Networks, and Purpose at Expanding Horizons: By Abby Serruya

It's rare to enter a space and instantly think, 'Yes—this is where I belong.' But within minutes at the Expanding Horizons Conference, I knew I had found a field where people, and innovative ideas are truly moving things forward.

After graduating, I knew I wanted to combine the joy I found in working with children with my passion for mental health. And transitioning from the classroom to the workforce can feel like a massive leap, especially when your destination is unclear. The Expanding Horizons proved to me that there is a wealth of opportunity in the field of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health.

In my role as a Family Support Worker at the Emily Murphy Non-Profit Housing Corporation, I have been connected with many inspiring Ottawa-based mental health organizations. Until recently, I had seen us as separate entities, but a presentation from the IEMH Care Pathways Initiative helped me recognize how my work fits into a broader network of care. I realized the importance in staying connected to novel ideas that fuel the energy I bring into my work. Dr. Jean Clinton's keynote presented the idea of being an "upstreamist"—looking at root causes, not just symptoms—and it resonated deeply. Her analogy of pulling children from the river while also asking why they're falling in gave me a renewed perspective on my role supporting families.



OAYPA member staff full of smiles, knowledge, comradery and great food!

“I arrived at the conference with an empty notebook and passion. I left with a book full of ideas, contacts, and, most importantly, a belief that even as a new professional, I have a role to play in shaping the future of this field.” (Abby Serruya)

Fully Funded ASQ/DSP Training –*New Dates*

We are pleased to announce that the in-person training on June 17 and 19th at the Abiona Centre is now full, with 19 staff members registered from five different OAYPA agencies!

Through funding from the Ujima Project, we continue to offer free training through IEMHP for Ages and Stages Questionnaire and Developmental Support Plans to OAYPA member staff (\$600 value) in 2025/26.

The next ASQ/DSP training will be held virtually and is set to begin in July. Please complete this [form](#) to check out the dates and register by June 20th, to secure your spot!

Celebrating a Wonderful Partnership: Hanen Centre & OAYPA

OAYPA is deeply grateful for our exciting partnership with the Hanen Centre, which made it possible for 11 OAYPA member staff to participate—at no cost—in the [Learning Language and Loving It \(LLLI\)](#) professional development program. As part of this impactful partnership, in 2024, Ujima Project Early Literacy Specialists also received training in the 4 “I”s to Socialize and SPARK Communication programs, further strengthening our collective capacity to support children's language and social development.

The LLLI training, designed to build children’s social, language, and literacy skills through responsive, child-led interactions, has been a transformative experience for our educators. A heartfelt thank you to **Colleen Reinhart** for her expert guidance and thoughtful facilitation throughout the 14-week training session. Under her leadership, OAYPA participants not only deepened their knowledge but also meaningfully increased their use of language-facilitating strategies. We are proud of this collaboration and look forward to continued collaboration.

Here is what some of the participants had to say:

“It was an amazing experience and educational piece for me. I will take all that I’ve learned and share it with the team. I highly recommend this training.”

“I thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of this training, from the material to the instructor to the method of instruction. I found it all very effective for me as a learner.”

“I found that the online format of this training was effective, especially for us as ECEs in the field as we could do it on a weekday morning and still be able to go back to the floor right after. It was convenient and did not take away from the learning.”

“The video feedback sessions were a great way to reflect on how well we were implementing the strategies. It gave us a way to look for ways to improve as well.”

IN THE NEWS

Canadian Dental Care Plan expands to include millions of new eligible Canadians

From: [Health Canada](#) News release; March 22, 2025, Government of Canada

Investing in Canadians’ health is key to building a stronger Canada. In its first year, the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) has significantly improved access to affordable dental care. More than 3.4 million Canadians were approved to be part of the plan, while 1.7 million have already received care.

Today, the Honourable Kamal Khera, Minister of Health, accompanied by the Honourable Ali Ehsassi, Minister of Government Transformation, Public Services and Procurement announced that all remaining eligible Canadians aged 18 to 64 years-old will be able to apply for the CDCP in May 2025; with coverage starting as early as June 1, 2025.

[Applications](#) will open by age group:

- May 1: 55 to 64 years old
- May 15: 18 to 34 years old
- May 29: 35 to 54 years old

To qualify for the CDCP, applicants must:

- Not have access to dental insurance.
- Have filed their individual 2024 tax return in Canada (and their spouse’s/common-law partner’s return, if applicable)
- Have an adjusted family net income of less than \$90,000
- Be a Canadian resident for tax purposes

As with previous cohorts, eligible Canadians will be able to apply online, by phone, or by visiting a Service Canada Centre.

Beginning of renewal process

From March 2025 onward, current CDCP members must take action to renew their coverage. CDCP members must have filed their 2024 tax return and received their 2024 Notice of Assessment from the Canada Revenue Agency before applying for renewal at canada.ca/dental, in [My Service Canada Account \(MSCA\)](#) or by telephone.

CDCP members must submit their renewal applications by June 1, 2025, to ensure uninterrupted coverage. Coverage for those who do not renew will end on June 30, 2025, and any oral health care services received during a gap in coverage will not be eligible for reimbursement.

For more information, visit Canada.ca/dental.

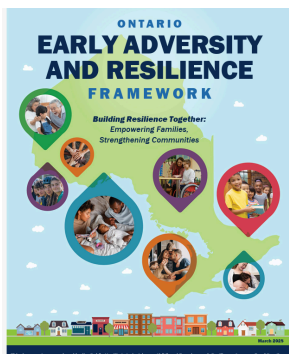
GET INVOLVED

Ontario Nonprofit Network

ONN's (Ontario Nonprofit Network) 2025 State of the Sector survey gathers crucial data to represent the realities of Ontario's nonprofit sector. It aims to inform public understanding and advocate for policy and funding changes by highlighting the sector's challenges and opportunities. Participation from all types of nonprofits is essential for an accurate picture. The survey takes about 15 minutes, and the deadline has been extended to **June 24**. Click [here](#) to access the [survey](#).

RESOURCES

Early Adversity and Resilience Framework



The Public Health Ontario ACEs and Resilience Community of Practice recently released the **Ontario Early Adversity and Resilience Framework**. This framework is a call for collective action across sectors, aiming to inspire and mobilize communities to work together as a team to develop innovative and meaningful solutions. To learn more, access the [full report](#) and [graphic summary](#).

Charity Village

7 Recruitment Trends You Should Know in 2025

While 2025 follows its course, the recruitment landscape continues to evolve at lightning speed. From AI-driven sourcing to candidate experience, organizations must continue to rethink how they attract, engage and hire top talent in an increasingly dynamic labour market. Check out this [article](#) by Morgane Lança, Content Marketing Team Lead at Folks, which provides key insights into recruitment trends that will shape hiring strategies in 2025.

ABC Life Literacy Canada

The Relationship between Adult Learning and Mental Health

In Canada, thousands of adults return to school each year to improve their literacy skills. These adult learners come from all walks of life. While we know that improving literacy skills can help people get better jobs and participate more fully in society, there is another benefit: improved mental health. Learn more [here](#).

FUNDRAISING/ GRANTS

Get Fully Funded with host Sandy Rees

There's nothing more important you can do than thank a donor – and thank them quickly – once they've made a gift. Thanking donors should never be an after-thought so be sure to prioritize this critical step in building lasting relationships with your donors. Learn about the 2 parts to thanking donors the right way (and how to nail them every time!). Explore 7 must-do's when thanking donors with email or letters in this [article](#).

Ontario Nonprofit Network (ONN): The Finance Masterclass for Nonprofit Leaders

As a nonprofit leader, we are tasked with financial oversight. [Goodcasting](#) has developed The Finance Masterclass for Nonprofit Leaders and Finance Leadership Toolboxes. This self-paced on-demand online training includes:

- 23 Tools: how-to guides, policy and report templates, job descriptions, checklists, strategy worksheets, and more
- Participants can take up to a year to complete and ask instructor questions along the way.

To learn more and to register, click [here](#). Use the code JUST4ONN25 for 25% off until June 30, 2025.

SIGNIFICANT DATES

- June [National Indigenous History Month](#)
- June [National Pride Month](#)
- June 15 [Father's Day](#)
- June 21 [National Indigenous People's Day](#)
- June 27 [Multiculturalism Day](#)

Professional Development

Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion

TOPIC	PRESENTER	WHO SHOULD ATTEND	DATE	TIME
Ten years of Truth, a lifetime of action: Part one - Prioritizing Indigenous justice with action and accountability as non-Indigenous settler peoples	Andrea Dillingham-Lacoursiere, and Rochele Padiachy	All	June 10, 2025	1:00 – 2:00 pm ET
Building 2SLGBTQIA+ safety and inclusion across Canadian workplaces: A panel conversation	Viktória Belle	Employers, HR and DEIA professionals, allies, and advocates	July 8, 2025	1:00 – 2:00 pm ET

Child and Parent Resource Institute (CPRI) – Growing Connections; Attachment-Informed Interventions for Complex Children & Families; June 17, 2025 (\$50.00)

This engaging and informative workshop is designed to enhance your clinical practice by building upon your understanding of attachment, developmental trauma, and exploring a variety of caregiver-driven interventions. This full-day virtual meeting will begin with a review of attachment theory followed by discussion of specific practical strategies to support your work with complex children and families. The workshop will conclude with a panel discussion featuring members of the interdisciplinary ACES team. This session will provide an opportunity for participants to ask questions, share insights, and discuss application of the interventions covered throughout the day. For more information including registration, click [here](#).

SickKids Education Sessions

Below are the confirmed dates and topics for the 2024-2025 academic year. **Registration links and session details will be added as they become available.**

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>PRESENTER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Creating Safer Spaces for 2SLGBTQ+ Clients and Families	Cathy Maser, NP	Jun 10, 2025	1:00 – 2:30pm EST
Dissociation	Dr. Upasana Krishnadev and Janine Lawford	June 24, 2025	1:00 – 2:30pm EST

SafeGuards Training

SafeGuards is a partnership of provincial associations dedicated to providing culturally informed training on trauma informed practice, trauma assessment and treatment and related effects of trauma. OAYYPA is an Association Member of SafeGuards with two of our members on the Board of Directors; Pete Embleton (Youville Centre) and Tamar Meyer (Abiona Centre).

Staff of agencies who are members of OAYYPA receive the Members Fee which is 12-23% off on SafeGuards training's fees. Save an additional 20% off individual member fee with group registration of 4 or more participants. Download the group registration form [here](#). For more information and to browse their list of courses, click [here](#). ***The following May/June courses may be of interest to you.***

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>PRESENTER</u>	<u>DATE(S)</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Affirmation Under Attack: How can We Support Queer and Trans Youth	Rogue Witterick	Pre-recorded Webinar	1-hr webinar is available 1 day after access request
Untangling Complex Trauma, Dissociation and Neurodivergence	Niki Gomez-Perales MSW, RSW	June 5 & 6, 2025	12:30 – 3:30 pm ET
Advanced Skills for Brief Therapy Practitioners: Managing Complex and High-Risk Issues	Alesya Courtnage, MA, RP, CCC	June 9,10,16 & 17, 2025	1:00 – 4:00pm ET
Indigenous Perspectives on the Mental Health of Children and Youth	Cyndy Baskin Ph.D.	June 25 & 26, 2025	1:00 – 4:00pm ET

Educational Offering: Attachment-Based Caregiving Interventions

Two-Part Seminar Series

Dates: Thursday, June 6th & Thursday, June 20th

Time: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM (Full-Day Sessions)

This two-part seminar explores evidence-based, attachment-focused models for understanding and improving caregiver-child relationships. Participants will learn to identify attachment patterns and disorders across the lifespan, from childhood to adulthood. The training will provide practical strategies to promote secure attachments and improve relational dynamics. Interactive videos will illustrate key concepts and real-world intervention techniques.

Here is the link to this offering, pre-registration is not required:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83126807896?pwd=aGJteHJPZThaOEFtaGJLSINON2ZnQT09>

Charity Village

Governing Your Organization: A Deeper Dive

Strong governance is essential for nonprofits navigating complex challenges and diverse stakeholder needs. This course offers a deeper look at core board responsibilities—from understanding who the board serves to building strong governance structures that support mission-driven work. You'll build a toolkit to improve meeting efficiency, strengthen dialogue with colleagues, and stay focused on the future. By the end, you'll feel more confident trying new approaches that enhance your board's effectiveness and support your organization's mission. The course cost is \$99.00. Access more information [here](#).

Follow us on social media!

LinkedIn: [Ontario Association of Young Parent Agencies \(OAYPA\)](#)

Instagram: [@OAYPA](#)

Facebook: [Ontario Association of Young Parent Agencies](#)

X: [@TheOntarioAsso1](#)