



THE COUNCIL OF CANADIAN CHILD AND YOUTH CARE ASSOCIATIONS

The Council of Canadian Child and Youth Care Associations [CCCYCA] is a national organization that aims to network Child and Youth Care professionals across Canada. Our aims include supporting professional development and professional practice.

I recently read this quote – The kids who need the most love will ask for it in the most unloving ways. Professional Child and Youth Care practitioners know that this is the child's way of acting out the pain that they are experiencing internally; emotionally, and psychologically. The pain that they learned in relationship, and the pain that will persist for them if they do not encounter individuals who are able to support them to see the world as safe, and people as loving.

Many child advocates understand that there is a group of professionals who are educated to work specifically with this incredibly vulnerable population – and they are Child and Youth Care practitioners.

There is an accreditation process for Child and Youth Care practitioner education programs (www.CYCEAB.ca), professional associations for Child and Youth Care practice in provinces across our nation (<http://www.cyccanada.ca>), and a certification process for Child and Youth Care practitioners (www.cycceb.org).

Our next step is moving towards legislation and regulation of our profession. Currently in Ontario you may be employed in a group care program working with young people who have experienced significant neglect, abuse, trauma in their primary caring relationships with NO specialized training. As advocate and former crown ward Arthur Gallant has stated, "You would think that those who work with society's most vulnerable children and youth with complex emotional and mental health needs would be regulated".

In order to move towards regulation and legislation we need to support of the government departments that have responsibility for the care of Crown Wards. It is with these departments that the responsibility for the safe care and treatment of our countries youth lie; these departments who are ultimately responsible when the care of these young people is criticized for inadequacy.

As president of the Council of Canadian Child and Youth Care Associations I am expressing the support of the Council for the Ontario Association of Child and Youth Counsellors letter and the lobbying of this organization (www.oacyc.org) for the recognition of Child and Youth Care

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practitioners as a unique profession, one that requires recognition and protection under legislation and which requires regulation by a professional body.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kelly Shaw".

Kelly Shaw MA CYS, CYC-P
President CCCYCA