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# Introduction to the Community of Practice

Wednesday September 2, 2026

# Introduction à la Communauté de pratique

Mercredi 2 septembre 2026

With financial contribution from/Financé par:



Public Health  
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé  
publique du Canada

# Interpretation

This meeting will take place in English and French with simultaneous interpretation.

**Important! You MUST select your preferred audio language.** To do this, click More  in the bottom toolbar and select Interpretation . Then choose either  or .

To access live **closed captioning**, click More  in the bottom toolbar and select Show captions .

To **select the language of your slides**, click the tab that says either “English Slides” or “Diapositives en français” in the screenshare options at the top of the screen.

This meeting is being recorded but will not be shared publicly.

# Interprétation

Cette réunion se déroulera en anglais et en français avec une interprétation simultanée.

**Important! Vous DEVEZ sélectionner votre langue audio préférée.** Pour ce faire, cliquer sur Plus  dans la barre d'outils en bas de l'écran, puis sélectionner Interprétation . Choisissez ensuite soit  ou .

Pour accéder aux **sous-titres en direct**, cliquer sur Plus  dans la barre d'outils en bas de l'écran et sélectionner Afficher les sous-titres .

Pour **sélectionner la langue de vos diapositives**, cliquez sur l'onglet « English Slides » ou « Diapositives en français » dans les options de partage d'écran en haut de l'écran.

Cette réunion sera enregistrée mais ne sera pas partagée publiquement.



MC  
2023

# Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction from KH team
2. Welcome Words from PHAC
3. Activities: Getting to Know Each Other
4. Introduction to Sustainability
5. Upcoming Meetings & Important Dates
6. Feedback Survey



Hello!  
We are the  
Knowledge  
Hub.



# The Knowledge Hub

## Connection

- Community of Practice
- Knowledge Exchange Events

## Knowledge Mobilization

- Website
- Webinars
- Amplification

## Sustainability

- Consulting with CAFC
- GBV Database

# Welcome from PHAC

Annie Comtois  
Kathleen Oliver

# Project Themes: 24 Projects

## Main themes covered across the projects:

- Parenting (9)
- Child welfare, child protection (9)
- Working with and in Indigenous communities (7)
- Serving Black communities (2)
- Francophone-first projects (5)

Many of them are delivering health promotion and building the capacity of service providers. Several are scaling up interventions.

# Let's Get to Know Each Other!

## COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Preventing and addressing  
child maltreatment

2026-  
2031

## Check Out the CoP Flipbook!

Don't forget to send us your photos,  
bios, and approved project  
descriptions.

Please do not share with others  
outside of the CoP.

# Child and Youth Advocacy Centres Research Priorities Jennifer McAlpine



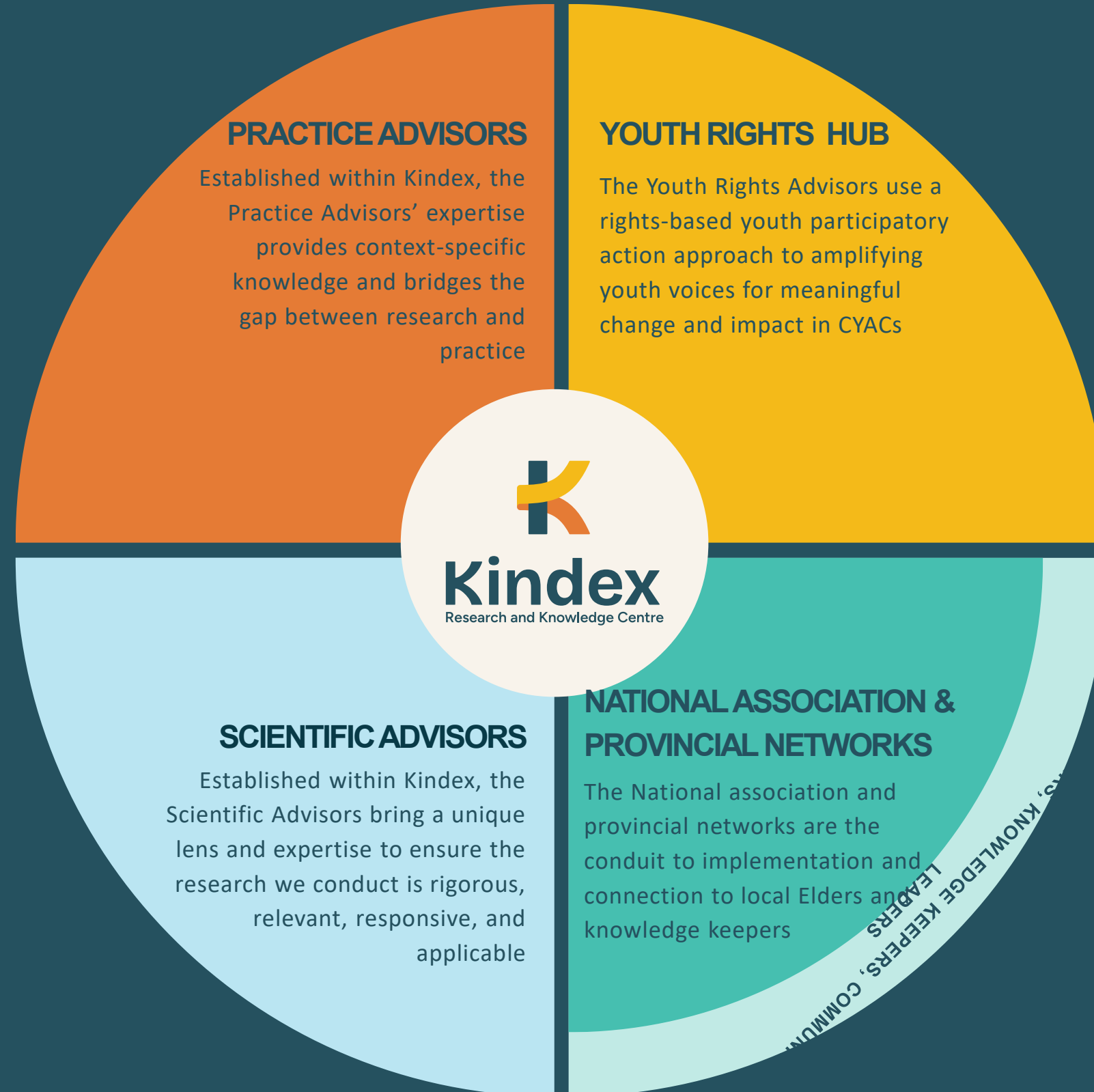
Kindex Research and Knowledge Centre exists to generate evidence, share knowledge and advance practices to strengthen outcomes for children, youth, and their families impacted by child abuse and neglect



# Our team

|                        |                                               |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Dr. Gina Dimitropoulos | Co-Director                                   |
| Dr. Naomi Parker       | Co-Director                                   |
| Dr. Olivia Cullen      | Policy and Partnership Specialist             |
| Janine Elenko          | Senior Research Associate                     |
| Noah Harris            | Youth Researcher                              |
| Dr. Tyler Kruger       | Senior Research Associate ( <i>Winnipeg</i> ) |
| Aston Medhurst         | Youth Researcher ( <i>Edmonton</i> )          |
| Jennifer McAlpine      | Knowledge Mobilization Specialist             |
| Christina Shaffer      | Research Associate ( <i>Halifax</i> )         |





### PRACTICE ADVISORS

Established within Kindex, the Practice Advisors' expertise provides context-specific knowledge and bridges the gap between research and practice

### YOUTH RIGHTS HUB

The Youth Rights Advisors use a rights-based youth participatory action approach to amplifying youth voices for meaningful change and impact in CYACs



### SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS

Established within Kindex, the Scientific Advisors bring a unique lens and expertise to ensure the research we conduct is rigorous, relevant, responsive, and applicable

### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION & PROVINCIAL NETWORKS

The National association and provincial networks are the conduit to implementation and connection to local Elders and knowledge keepers

## Scientific Advisors

- Dr. Ramona Alaggia, University of Toronto
- Dr. Marlyn Bennett, University of Calgary
- Prof. Warren Binford, University of Colorado
- Dr. Delphine Collin-Vézina, McGill University
- Dr. Isabelle Daignault, Université de Montréal
- Dr. Melissa Kimber, McMaster University
- Prof. Jennifer Koshan, University of Calgary
- Dr. Amy Ornstein, Dalhousie University
- Dr. Heather Price, Thompson River University

## Practice Advisors

- Ms. Roxane Bélanger, Le Services intégrés en abus et maltraitance
- Dr. Cassidy Beiner, Kelowna CYAC
- Ms. Karen Chymy, Toba CYAC
- Dr. Daniel Garfinkel, Treehouse CYAC
- Ms. Christina Shaffer, Seastar CYAC
- Ms. Bianca Stumpf, Department of Justice
- Ms. Ambreen Su, Boost CYAC
- Ms. Samantha Ward, Cedar Centre
- Ms. Emma Wile, Nunavut CYAC

## Youth Advisors

- Ms. Myah Anderson, Kelowna BC
- Ms. Noah Harris, Calgary AB
- Ms. Meriem Mahrady, Toronto ON
- Ms. Charley McNeil, Winnipeg MN
- Mr. Aston Medhurst, Calgary AB



## Research focus areas.

- 1 Effectiveness of the CYAC model
- 2 System integration and coordination
- 3 Trauma-informed justice system
- 4 Emerging topics in child sexual abuse
- 5 Therapeutic approaches in child abuse



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• *Thank you*

# CYAC Research Alignment

## Research Focus Areas

**Effectiveness  
of the CYAC  
Model**

**System  
Integration &  
Coordination**

**Trauma-  
Informed  
Justice System**

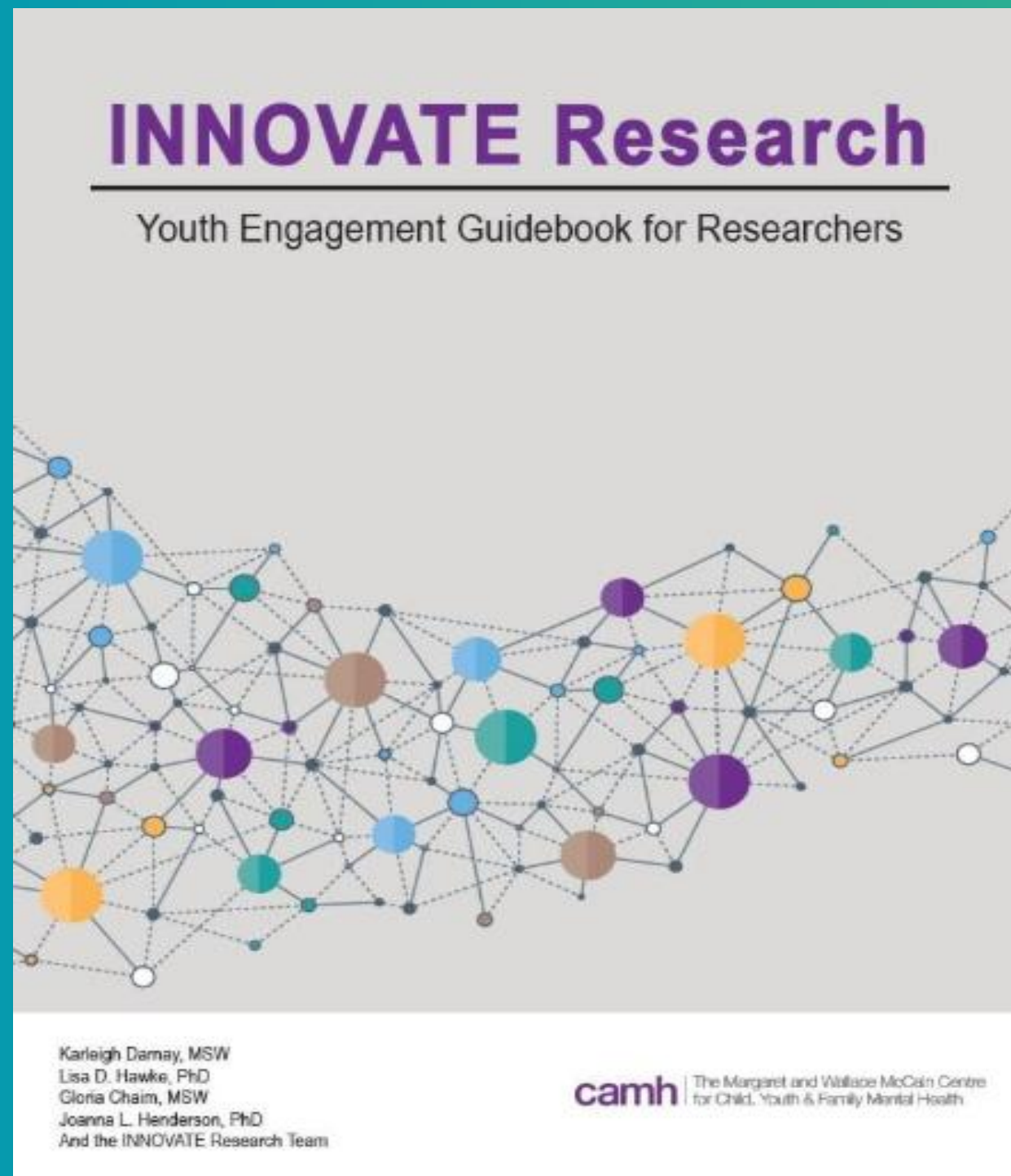
**Emerging Topics  
in Child  
Sexual Abuse**

**Therapeutic  
Approaches in  
Child Abuse**





# Resource Sharing



This work identified benefits of engaging young people in research including:

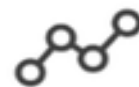
Engaging young people in research has multiple positive impacts on the research project. When young people with lived experience of the issue being studied are engaged in research, this can result in:



- Research questions that are more relevant to the current youth experience
- Study designs that set you up for success
- Recruitment strategies that better reach your target population
- More youth-friendly recruitment materials



- Increased number of contacts with potential participants
- Increased study enrollment
- Better study retention



- Increased stakeholder buy-in
- Demonstration to your institutions and funders that you are researching real-world problems and real-world solutions
- Compliance with increased funder and publisher expectations for stakeholder engagement



- More relevant outcomes
- More effective knowledge translation to get your findings to people who will benefit from them
- Increased youth-friendliness of interventions



- Empower youth to become involved in science and community change
- Help engaged youth develop skills, self-efficacy, and social trust
- Build social engagement and long-term community citizenship among youth

# Poll Question # 1

## How are you engaging youth in your research project?

1. Project planning, developing research questions, guiding research methods used
2. Project activities – supporting recruitment and data collection, co-facilitating focus groups
3. Data analysis and interpretation
4. Knowledge translation (supporting manuscript development, developing resources, co-presentations, social media, etc.)

# Youth Advisory Committee

# TRC Calls to Action Related to Child Welfare

**1. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to commit to reducing the number of Aboriginal children in care by:**

- a) Monitoring and assessing neglect investigations.
- b) Providing adequate resources to enable Aboriginal communities and child-welfare organizations to keep Aboriginal families together where it is safe to do so, and to keep children in culturally appropriate environments, regardless of where they reside.
- c) Ensuring that social workers and others who conduct child-welfare investigations are properly educated and trained about the history and impacts of residential schools.
- d) Ensuring that social workers and others who conduct child-welfare investigations are properly educated and trained about the potential for Aboriginal communities and families to provide more appropriate solutions to family healing
- e) Requiring that all child-welfare decision makers consider the impact of the residential school experience on children and their caregivers.

# TRC Calls to Action Related to Child Welfare

2. We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, to prepare and publish annual reports on the number of Aboriginal children (First Nations, Inuit, and Métis) who are in care, compared with non-Aboriginal children, as well as the reasons for apprehension, the total spending on preventive and care services by child-welfare agencies, and the effectiveness of various interventions.

3. We call upon all levels of government to fully implement Jordan's Principle.

4. We call upon the federal government to enact Aboriginal child-welfare legislation that establishes national standards for Aboriginal child apprehension and custody cases and includes principles that:

- a. Affirm the right of Aboriginal governments to establish and maintain their own child-welfare agencies.
- b. Require all child-welfare agencies and courts to take the residential school legacy into account in their decision making.
- c. Establish, as an important priority, a requirement that placements of Aboriginal children into temporary and permanent care be culturally appropriate.

5. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate parenting programs for Aboriginal families.

# Poll Question # 2

**To what extent have you built TRC Calls to Action into your project or considered them when building your project?**

1. It's core to my work
2. It's something I have thought about
3. It's something I need to think more about

# Denise Silverstone

## Child Abuse Foundation of Canada



# Upcoming Meetings & Important Dates

## Next CoP meetings:

1. Thursday, December 10, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. ET
2. Wednesday, March 24, 2027 at 1:00 p.m. ET

# Knowledge Exchange



**Tuesday, January 19 -  
Wednesday, January 20, 2027**

**AC Marriott Ottawa  
201 Rideau Street, Ottawa, Ontario  
(in ByWard Market)**

The Knowledge Hub will coordinate travel and accommodations.

# Feedback Survey

After the meeting, a link to an optional feedback will be shared in the chat.