





# Welcome and Bienvenue!

**The International Play Association (Canada) is extremely proud to partner with The City of Calgary to host the 20th IPA Triennial World Conference in September 2017.**

The International Play Association: Promoting the Child's Right to Play, with members in nearly 60 countries, has been working for more than 50 years to secure every child's right to play and promote healthy, high-quality play opportunities and environments. The IPA Triennial World Conference brings together dedicated play researchers, practitioners and advocates from around the world to celebrate play, understand its many benefits and provide all children with the chance to engage in rich, meaningful, free play... every day.

*L'Association internationale du jeu (AIJ), avec des membres dans presque 60 pays, travaille depuis plus de 50 ans pour garantir le droit au jeu de chaque enfant et promouvoir des opportunités de jeu dans des environnements sains et de haute qualité pour tous les enfants. La conférence triennale mondiale AIJ réunit les chercheurs, praticiens et défenseurs provenant du monde entier et dévoués au jeu de l'enfant afin de célébrer le jeu, comprendre ses nombreux avantages et fournir à tous les enfants la possibilité de s'engager au jeu libre riche et significatif... à tous les jours.*

**Join us in Calgary, Alberta, Canada from September 13 to 16, 2017 for four informative and playful days where we will be unleashing the power of play!**

## Who should come...

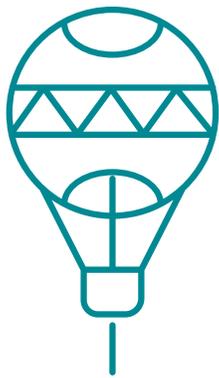
Should you join us in Calgary, Canada for IPA World 2017?

Yes! We invite all those dedicated to children's play or play environments, with an interest in one or more of the conference themes, including from all of the following disciplines...

**Education • Early Child Care  
Play Provision • Social Work • Resilience  
Planning • Health • Play Therapy  
Child & Youth Advocacy • Child Psychology  
Psychology • Architecture • Landscape Architecture  
Children's Geographies • Parks • Community Services**



• Playwork  
• Research • Design  
• Policy • Recreation  
• Children's Rights  
• Landscape Design  
• Play Policy  
• Services



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in nearly 60 countries, has been working for more  
than 50 years to secure every child's right to play  
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and environments for all children.

## Invite from the IPA World President

On behalf of the IPA international Council I am delighted to invite you to join us in 2017, when the world of play will meet in the city of Calgary. IPA Triennial World Conferences are unique gatherings for all us who share a passion for ensuring the right to play of all children - whoever they are, wherever they are from.

Past experience tells me that in the 20th World Conference we can expect rigorous debate, moments of enlightenment, meetings of minds and a renewed sense of purpose. I am hugely looking forward to seeing you in there.

**Theresa Casey**

**President  
International Play Association  
Promoting the Child's Right to Play**

## Call for Submissions

The IPA World Conference brings together a diverse group of participants from across the entire play spectrum including play researchers, advocates, designers, educators, providers, and policymakers from a vast array of disciplines.

In addition to play research, we welcome submissions about best practices in areas such as design and planning, playwork and play provision, as well as case studies highlighting successful social or policy change initiatives, or participatory projects.

We also encourage submissions which involve or highlight collaborations across play sectors (research, design, play provision, and policy) or which seek to engage participants to consider complex issues from multiple perspectives.

Submissions from non-IPA members are welcome.



# Conference Themes

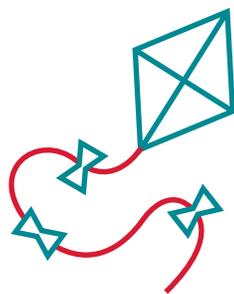
*The IPA 2017 World Conference welcomes all play-related submissions, particularly those which may align with the following 8 conference themes:*

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## Situations of crisis, conflict or challenge

The impacts on the health and well-being of children living in situations of crisis, such as those living in conflict zones or in the wake of natural disasters, has been a key concern of IPA for many years. IPA 2017 continues this exploration, but broadens our focus to consider children living in other challenging contexts such as those living with high levels of poverty, crime and violence, illness and disease or substance abuse. As well, we consider children suffering from cultural loss or deprivation, familial separation and geographical isolation.

Recent global events have also drawn our attention to the difficulties faced by refugee children, not only as they flee from conflict or adapt to temporary settlements, but as they try to resettle in unfamiliar environments. In Canada, as in many other nations, Indigenous children can also face significant challenges.



This special theme aims to deepen our understanding of the impacts on children living in situations of crisis, conflict or challenge, and to explore the role of play in mitigating impacts, scaffolding resilience and promoting healing. Topics for presentation could include:

- Play in situations of crisis or conflict; play in challenging contexts
- Access to or impacts of play in conflict zones, challenging contexts or during/after natural disasters
- Play deprivation
- Play for coping, healing and reconciliation
- Child and community resilience and adaptation through play
- Play-related research or projects with and for children in challenging contexts
- Participatory planning and design in challenging contexts; culturally appropriate play planning

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## Supporting children's right to play and participate

This theme underscores the central tenet of IPA, every child's fundamental right to play and to safe, appropriate play opportunities, regardless of means, ability, culture, or location. Children also have the right to participate in the decisions that affect their lives and communities. This theme invites presentations related to:

- Article 31 and the Right to Play; Rights-based approaches to play
- Inclusive play and play environments; play that celebrates diversity
- Play and social justice; equitable access to play; freedom to play
- Accessible play and playgrounds
- Culturally appropriate play
- Soliciting and celebrating children's voices
- Child and youth participation and engagement; participatory methods or projects
- Play as a tool for engagement, collaboration and decision making
- Article 12 and the child's right to be consulted about decisions that impact on their play



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## Child and family health and well-being

Research suggests that a diverse range of child-centred play activities, including active and 'risky' play, supports optimal child health and development, but providing challenging opportunities for play also requires attention to concerns for child safety and prevention of injuries. Play and playful environments can also be used for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes, further supporting child and family health. This theme invites submissions addressing such issues and the integrated nature of child, family and community health, including:

- Healthy play for children, families and communities; play across the lifespan
- Physical, cognitive, emotional and psychological health impacts of play or play deprivation
- Therapeutic environments; play in diagnostic practices; play therapy
- Play safety and risk management or assessment; children's self-management of risk
- Risky and challenging play
- Health benefits of active play; active play initiatives
- Family play; community play
- Ensuring time for play
- Parenting and play; playful parenting

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## Learning and development

Play is the primary means by which children learn about themselves and explore the world around them. Incorporating play and playful environments in children's landscapes can shore up learning as well as their physical, social and emotional development. This theme explores the means by which diverse play opportunities and richly-provisioned playful environments support and promote child learning and development, including:

- Learning through play; play in education; play in the curriculum
- The role of play in holistic development
- Learning 'play'scapes; playful environments in learning or care settings

- Play in informal learning environments (e.g. museums, libraries, science centres, community centres)
- Design and planning for playful learning environments
- The value of free play; unstructured play; loose parts play
- The role of adventure or 'risky play' in learning and development; the challenges of offering 'risky play' opportunities
- Creative learning; experiential learning; natural inquiry
- Playwork strategies, programs and training
- Playfulness of teachers and other educational leaders



## Exhibition and Trade Show

**If you are a commercial or not-for-profit organization wishing to take this exciting opportunity to reserve exhibition space at the conference venue, please contact [canada2017@ipaworld.org](mailto:canada2017@ipaworld.org) for more information.**



# Conference Themes

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## Community and public spaces

In many communities, children and play are disappearing from our streets and neighbourhoods. For some children, community streets and public spaces are unsafe, unappealing or inaccessible for play. This theme explores children's play in community settings and public spaces, including efforts to revitalize our streets and re-insert children's play at the heart of our communities. Presentations can include discussion of:

- Play in public spaces
- Street and neighbourhood play
- Children's neighbourhood activities and mobility
- Parent's perspectives and concerns around community-based or unsupervised play
- The impact of changing dynamics in neighborhoods and communities

- Design and planning for play and playful public environments
- Child-friendly and play-friendly cities and streets
- Challenges of securing open space for play in cities and urban areas
- Community play provision initiatives
- Play markets
- Play in the margins and wild spaces
- Community consultation and engagement strategies
- Community play spaces and programs for older youth



## Pre-Conference Tours

We also hope to offer a series of both play-related and general interest tours to take place just before the conference commences on September 13, 2017.

Watch [www.canada2017.ipaworld.org](http://www.canada2017.ipaworld.org) for more details!

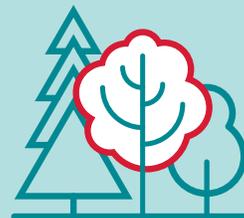


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## Outdoors and in nature

The amount of time many children spend playing outdoors and in natural settings is severely declining, jeopardizing their knowledge of and comfort with the natural world, as well as opportunities to benefit from play outdoors. Outdoor play, and play with and in nature, provides diverse and ever-changing experiences which support healthy child development and learning. This theme invites a broad range of topics around children's play and learning outdoors and in nature including:

- Outdoor play; playing out in all seasons
- Nature play; exposure to nature through play
- Natural playgrounds; impacts of playspace greening
- Nature schools; forest schools
- Natural inquiry; experiential learning in nature
- Environmental/ecological learning
- Environmental stewardship through play
- Adventure or 'risky' play outdoors
- Play and sustainability
- Indigenous play connections to nature



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## New technologies



The rapid emergence of digital technologies has had a profound influence on children's use of media and popular culture as resources for play. Many blame children's access to technologies for sedentary lifestyles and the decline of outdoor play. Others see rich play possibilities in the new landscape of multimedia and virtual worlds. This theme invites consideration of the complex and changing relationships between play, technology, media, and popular culture – of the possibilities as well as the challenges of play in a technologized world. Presentations within this theme could include exploration of:

- The impact of technology on play opportunities
- Opportunities and possibilities for play in the digital world
- Digital play; virtual play
- Visual media and play
- Play in and through film; digital storytelling
- Play and play culture in digital and social media
- The interface between play culture, popular culture and media culture
- Play research using digital tools or environments
- Virtual/digital play spaces; play in multiple realities; play in augmented realities

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## Driving social and policy change



Rich, engaging and ongoing opportunities for free play have a profound impact on children's experience of well-being in the present and future, thrusting play advocacy to the core of our work. Ensuring that play spaces and programs are challenging as well as safe, that opportunities for free play are inclusive, and that play leadership is attuned to children's purposes in play, are essential policy considerations to honour the right of each and every child to play. This theme will highlight the need for efforts to ensure that the right to play is securely embedded in policy and practice, including:

- Developing play policies and charters
- Initiating and driving play movements and public play events
- Play advocacy; making the case for investing in play
- Partnerships and collaborations; strategies for play policy and program development
- Lessons from successful play programs, initiatives or policy development
- Playwork strategies and leadership
- Play sufficiency
- Involvement of children and youth in policy development
- Rights-based framework for policy development

# Conference Session Types

IPA World 2017 is offering the following session and presentation types, which will be organized into 90 minute sessions:

## Individual oral presentations:

20 min presentation + 5 min Q&A; individual presentations will be grouped 3 per session, with 15 min available for group discussion.

## Symposia or panel discussions:

Facilitated session, format at the discretion of the organizer(s); in addition to proposed content, abstract to include list and short biography of all speakers or panelists.

## Round table discussions:

Facilitated session involving both small and large group discussion on a priority or emerging issue related to a conference theme.

## 'Play'shops:

Interactive workshop, seminar or demonstration, emphasizing audience participation or activities; available as either a 45 min or 90 min session.

## Visual media:

The introduction and screening of visual material, typically films, photographs, installations or interactive visual media, up to 90 minutes in length; while these may be displayed during presentation sessions, we may also be able to showcase material at other times, such as during conference breaks.



We are also offering other session types which will typically be offered outside of the 90 minute presentation blocks:

## Posters:

Presentation of a graphic poster (poster parameters to be distributed to accepted authors) detailing relevant content such as play research, play work or play design practice, case studies of play initiatives or policies, etc. Posters summarizing future or proposed research or initiatives are discouraged. Posters may be displayed throughout the conference, but there will also be designated poster sessions where authors are to be on hand to present their work. Participants may propose an abstract for a poster, however, participants whose oral presentations are not accepted will also be given the option to prepare a poster as an alternative.

## Wild card:

In an effort to include more innovative, playful and non-traditional ideas, we are offering this open-ended opportunity: participants can propose any unique presentation or session idea, including participatory presentations, indoor or outdoor installations, demonstrations, performances, non-commercial exhibitions, 'unconference' or 'open space' events, speed-geeking sessions, battle of ideas (debate) panels, fishbowl events, or ideas for 'playbreaks' involving attendees and/or the public. We encourage participants to submit their ideas, including what they would need in terms of time, people and space, and we'll see what we can do!

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## Registration Information

### Registration for the conference will open in January 2017.

Discounted registration fees will be on offer for all IPA members. To become a member prior to registration, please visit [www.ipaworld.org](http://www.ipaworld.org), and select the appropriate country chapter under 'Join Us'.

All delegates and contributors need to register and pay for a conference delegate place through the conference website: [www.canada2017.ipaworld.org](http://www.canada2017.ipaworld.org)

Terms and conditions for payment and registration will be available on the website by January 2017.

# Abstract Submissions

## Guidelines

**Abstracts for all presentation types can be submitted at [canada2017.ipaworld.org](http://canada2017.ipaworld.org) (follow link to abstract submission page) up until midnight GMT on November 1, 2016.**

When submitting an abstract, authors will first be asked to pick the conference theme they would most like to present within (authors who are unsure of their preferred theme, or who have a proposal that does not align well with one of the conference themes, can select 'IPA 2017 General'). However, authors will also be asked to select up to two more conference themes with which their submission may align. Conference organizers will work hard to place each accepted submission within sessions corresponding to the author's first or second choice theme. However, by submitting an abstract, the author agrees that, if accepted, the paper will be presented as scheduled.

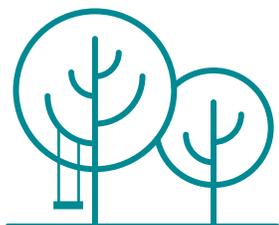
There is no limit to the number of abstracts that can be submitted by an individual, organization, or institution, however, each abstract submitted under the same author must be substantively unique in content.



Abstracts must be clearly written, and should not exceed 350 words.

English is the official language of the conference. All abstract submissions and final presentations (including posters) are to be presented in English. Films or other visual media prepared in other languages should provide English subtitles or translations as needed.

To honour Canada's status as a bilingual country, some French language submissions will be accepted (for individual presentations and symposia only). Abstracts may be submitted in French, and presentations can be delivered in French or in both English and French (translation will be provided if possible). Note that due to the smaller number of submissions, French language presentations may be grouped in sessions together, rather than under a conference theme.



## Evaluation Criteria

**The IPA World Conference endeavours to support presentations of work from all sectors, including from academics, practitioners and policymakers. Criteria have been developed to evaluate and accept high-quality submissions of all types.**

All abstract proposals should clearly outline:

- Goals of the study/project/initiative/activity to be presented
- Relevance and value for the play community
- Play-related issues or topics being addressed
- How the study/project/initiative/activity was designed or approached
- The conclusions, outcomes or recommendations from the study/project, or expected from the activity/discussion

Abstracts will also be evaluated on:

- Quality and organization of the written proposal
- Evidence of ethical approach or framework, where applicable
- Alignment with conference themes

All authors will be notified by email in January 2017 whether their submission has been accepted.

Please note that the Primary Author of all accepted submissions must attend the conference, and must complete their registration by June 2017 to be included in the conference program.

