



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

National Parent-Child Mother Goose Program

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ABOUT US

In the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program, parents and young children between the ages of 0 and 4 come together to enjoy songs, rhymes and stories.

Each group of parents and children meets with two teachers once a week. Together, parents and children in the program:

- experience the spark of delight and magic that comes from enjoying a favourite rhyme or song
- learn and retain a repertoire of rhymes, songs and stories
- enjoy strengthened bonding.

These skills, pleasures and insights are taken home and shared with older children, grandparents, and other parents. The whole family benefits!

The Parent-Child Mother Goose program is preventative in nature and provides community service agencies with a clearly developed program that is responsive to community needs.

The program is committed to inclusive services that provide a climate of mutual respect and understanding. We welcome diverse cultures, languages, family situations, sexual orientations, and physical and mental abilities.

Parent-Child Mother Goose programs are held across Canada and around the world, helping thousands of families to discover the power and pleasure of songs, rhymes, and stories!

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

The management of the activities of the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program is vested in the National Council, a central unified body which addresses issues affecting the organization.

Members of the National Council, some of whom represent programs from around the country, serve as trustees for the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program to ensure organizational performance and promotion of program standards.



April Jennings, Alberta



Beth Hutchinson, BC



Ivanka Gotcheva, Ontario



Kristen LeNoble, BC



Maureen Doll, BC



Marilee Peters, BC

(Not pictured: Ann Stafford, Quebec and Rebecca Fenton, Yukon).

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Message from the National Chair

The past year has been an exceptionally challenging one for everyone, and the National Council of the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program has worked hard to meet those challenges and to continue to deliver on its mandate to support the program throughout Canada. COVID-19's impacts on the delivery of programs for families has been profound, but we are heartened by the determination of many program teachers and supporters in communities from coast to coast, who are finding ways to keep Mother Goose going, and to stay in touch with the families for whom the program is a lifeline.

To support program teachers across the country in their efforts to continue providing songs, stories and rhymes to the families in their communities, the National Council passed a motion approving, as a temporary measure, virtual program delivery. We also approved the virtual provision of training programs. We published information in our newsletter and on our blog about the innovative and creative ways that teachers have been exploring for delivering the program. By sharing the successes and challenges that others are experiencing, we hope that program teachers across the country will be inspired to try new methods of program delivery.

We were very pleased to welcome a new member of the National Council in 2020, Rebecca Fenton from Whitehorse, Yukon. Lynda Howes, a longtime member of the Program and Training Committee, decided to step down this year, and we extend our grateful thanks to Lynda for her many years of dedication to Parent-Child Mother Goose. The Program and Training Committee also saw the addition of two new members this year: Kate Jarrett of Peterborough, Ontario and Maureen Doll of Kamloops, BC. Maureen is also a member of the National Council and provides a crucial communications link between the Program and Training Committee and the National Council. Welcome Kate and Maureen!

The National Council members have been focusing throughout the year on working to ensure a strong future for the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program. As the body entrusted with governance and strategy for Parent-Child Mother Goose across Canada, we take our responsibilities very seriously. We are currently in discussions with the BC Provincial Coordination Office, housed in the BC Council for Families, on updates to the memorandum

of agreement between the National Council and the BCCF. The members of the Negotiations Committee have also participated in a series of a facilitated discussions with members of Toronto's Vermont Square program board and staff, intended to improve communications and an enhanced understanding of the goals and responsibilities of each group. We look forward to continuing these efforts in the months ahead.

Ultimately, many of the successes over the past year would not have been possible without the staunch support of our national office administrator, Catherine Taylor, and the dedication of my fellow Council members. It has been an honour and privilege to serve as Chair this year, and I hope you will all continue to show support for the PCMGP and its meaningful impacts in our local communities. I would like to extend my grateful thanks to all the volunteers who give so generously of their time to ensure that the work of the National Council continues.

If you are interested in joining the National Council, we would love to hear from you. We are confident that you will find it a rewarding experience and an excellent opportunity to give back to your community by supporting the continued development of the Parent-Child Mother Goose program.

Happy rhyiming!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marilee Peters". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marilee" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Peters".

Marilee Peters
National Council Chair

Program and Training Committee Report

The Program and Training Committee is a committee of National Council that deals with all aspects of our program guidelines and our training guidelines, development, and policy.

2019-2020 has been a year full change and challenges on many fronts. Our committee saw the resignation of one member, Lynda Howes, who is deeply missed for her commitment and dedication; however, she continues to contribute to the Parent-Child Mother Goose program through program teaching and training workshops. We have welcomed the addition of two new members who bring a wealth of experience, compassion and commitment to our Program and Training Committee: Maureen Doll from BC, and Kate Jarrett from Ontario.

Due to the many challenges this year, we did not host a Workshop Facilitators' teleconference meeting in 2020, however we are presently planning our 2021 Facilitators meeting for January, which will be on Zoom. We are looking forward to seeing the Workshop Facilitators there and having a discussion about responding to the challenges of running PCMG Training Workshops during COVID-19.

As always, we continued to respond to questions and communications that came our way from across the country and abroad, relating to Program and/or Training guidelines.

At the outset of the pandemic many organizations cancelled in person programming and we had many queries regarding ways to deliver PCMG Programs under COVID restrictions. We have responded to all queries and requests for support. We recently developed a document "Guidelines and Best Practices for an Online Program" for distribution to Teacher Training facilitators and all members in good standing. During these unusual times, an online PCMG Program can be of benefit to families by providing parent support, interaction, community, new learning, stimulation, and many stories to get participants through the day and help families not to feel alone.

There is also a little international news.

In October 2019 Lynda Howes and Sarah Abusharar travelled to Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and delivered two demonstration programs: one infant and one 2-4

program. At the request of women in Sarajevo who had witnessed these demonstrations, they conducted a two-day training workshop with 6 women in Sarajevo. Sarah and Lyndahave continued to support the women running programs throughout the year via Skype.

The Australian PCMGP have been in touch on a regular basis regarding online PCMGP Programs and Teacher Training Workshops. They too, have carefully considered ways to provide the delivery of both online programs and training.

Guita Movallali from Iran continues to be in touch with us regularly with information, research, and photographs from her PCMGP for families with deaf and hard of hearing children. Her clinic hosted their third annual Deaf Awareness Campaign 2020 in Iran. Also, Guita was contacted by a doctor in Afghanistan for help with their deaf children as there is no rehabilitation, speech language pathologist or audiologist available. Her team at Faranak clinic is supporting the development and implementation of their first PCMGP Program in Afghanistan.

We always appreciate the opportunity to hear of the positive changes that the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program makes in the lives of families! We welcome ideas, questions and feedback from our membership. Please feel free to contact us at any time.

Program and Training Committee

Ruth Danziger, Ontario

Lori Fritz, Newfoundland

Maureen Doll, British Columbia

Kate Jarrett, Ontario

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Communications Committee Report

This year we have published three newsletters so far - one for each season. The fourth one is coming in December.

As always, we tried to be inclusive and have something for everyone and offer culturally sensitive stories and rhymes.

In each issue we published articles from different parts of Canada or from other countries where facilitators share their experience with the program. This year all articles were focused on staying in touch and running the program in times of COVID-19 and social isolation.

We published articles from:

- Montreal and Whitehorse
- Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where people worked together with facilitators from Canada on launching the Parent-Child Mother Goose program and adapting it to their country and their culture
- Faranak Clinic in Iran, where the program is run for families with deaf children.

Our stories section included stories from Iraq, Portugal, and North America.

Together with popular rhymes from different sources, we published a special section with Canadian rhymes for Canada Day.

Communications Committee

Ivanka Gotcheva, Ontario
Kristen LeNoble, British Columbia
April Jennings, Alberta

Membership Committee Report

We are pleased to report that we welcomed Rebecca Fenton, from Whitehorse, Yukon to the National Council in 2020.

Rebecca is currently working with Partners for Children, a resource for all agencies and services for young children and their families throughout the Yukon. She has had connections with the PCMGP since its earliest beginnings there. We are delighted to have connection with programs in the Yukon through her and to have her insight and experience a part of our conversations.

At this meeting, we are nominating Robin Sales from Montreal, Quebec to the National Council.

Robin has a long history there with the PCMGP, previously with the Montreal Children's Library and now through La Mere L'oise Montreal, an independent organization formed to coordinate, organize and guide the PCMGP in Montreal. She comes to us with experience in leading, organizing, co-ordinating the program along with a great variety of story and organizational experience.

Membership Committee

Beth Hutchinson, British Columbia

Ann Stafford, Quebec

Marilee Peters, British Columbia

Fundraising Committee Report

The emergence of the COVID-19 virus has affected the finances of the National Council of the PCMGP dramatically.

Many non-profit agencies have had to shut down programming, losing funding along with those programs. The PCMGP has been one of those programs lost in many agencies. Many agencies have moved to virtual PCMGP's on Zoom or to the sharing of rhymes and stories on FaceBook in order to keep in touch with the families they are involved with. In all cases the agencies' finances are stretched more than ever. And this means less membership fees coming to the National Council this year.

We are currently preparing our annual membership drive, with some changes in order to meet the needs of the current situation. In recognition of the challenges facing community agencies, we have introduced a pay-what-you-can membership option for 2021.

We are very grateful to loyal donors. Our spring donations letter was successful in encouraging continued donations. Our December donations letter will go out shortly.

Do join us! This program continues to make a powerful and beneficial difference in the lives of very young children and their families. We make use of every penny we receive. If you could share some of your pennies, or some of your dollars with us, they would make a tremendous difference.

Membership Committee

Beth Hutchinson, British Columbia
Ann Stafford, Quebec
Marilee Peters, British Columbia

Negotiations Committee Report

This year has been a challenge, a learning process, a scary time and a period of great change.

During this time of upheaval, the National Committee has put together an ad-hoc committee to renegotiate our commitment to two organizations: the BC Council for Families (BCCF) in Vancouver, and Vermont Square in Toronto.

We are pursuing a Memorandum of Understanding with BCCF and are pleased that negotiations have gone smoothly and are hoping the MOU will be signed in the near future.

We have also entered a series of five facilitated conversations with Vermont Square to explore our future together. We hope these conversations will foster a clear, harmonious and sustainable working relationship for the future.

Negotiations Committee

April Jennings, Alberta
Kristen LeNoble, British Columbia
Marilee Peters, British Columbia