

2018/19 Annual Report



National Parent-Child Mother Goose Program

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National Parent-Child Mother Goose Program
720 Bathurst Street, Suite 500A
Toronto, ON M5S 2R4

www.nationalpcmgp.ca

For inquiries relating to Memberships, Certification Process and National Donations please contact:

Catherine Taylor
Phone: 416.588.5234 ext.2
Fax: 416.588.1355
email: info@nationalpcmgp.ca



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 throughout the year. 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 began over twenty-five years ago, and has since spread 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).



Message from the Chair

It has been another rewarding and busy year for the National Council of the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program.

This year, the volunteer members of the National Council were active on many fronts, focusing throughout 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.

In 2018, we received a set of recommendations from a group of experienced long-time advocates and supporters of the program who were charged with examining the opportunities and challenges ahead and advising on how to strengthen the administration and governance of the program for the future. Much of our work over the past year has focused on reviewing these recommendations, discussing them with key stakeholders, and planning for implementation.

You can read their fourteen recommendations on our website, and in our Fall 2019 newsletter. I encourage you to send us your thoughts about these recommendations. You can email us at info@nationalpcmgp.ca.

We have reviewed the recommendations carefully and we are developing a multi-year implementation plan that we anticipate will keep us busy for some time to come. We look forward to keeping all our members up to date with planning in our newsletter and through our website. If you would like to be involved, please let us know!

In addition, we are developing an exciting new continuing professional development opportunity for program teachers. Offered as online training events, these sessions would allow teachers to connect with one another while focusing discussion on specific aspects of the program including organizing, leadership and fostering relationships. I look forward to sharing more information on the training events in the new year.

Our Program and Training Committee members, along with the other committees of the National Council, have been active throughout the year. You can read about the work of these committees in this report. We are grateful to all the volunteers who give so generously of their time to ensure that the work of the National Council continues.



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.

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 rhyming!

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

Committee Reports

Communications Committee

Ivanka Gotcheva, Ontario

April Jennings, Alberta

Kristen LeNoble, BC

Through the work of the Communications Committee, the National Council keeps in touch with our Parent-Child Mother Goose friends across Canada and around the world. This year, the Communications Committee developed new guidelines for the newsletter to ensure consistency of approach.

Two e-newsletters were produced this year with submissions from various programs and were put together by Ivanka Gotcheva, committee animator.

Our goal for the next year is to produce four newsletters – one for each season, with issues in February, May, August and November.

If you would like to contribute to a newsletter with an article about your program, your favourite story and rhymes; or volunteer on the communications committee, please get in touch!

Fundraising & Membership Committee

Beth Hutchinson, BC

Ann Stafford, Quebec

Marilee Peters, BC

We are happy to report that the upward trend in donations continues. Over the past year, donations to the National Parent Child Mother Goose Program increased from the previous year. Our annual fall fundraising appeal letter has been sent to program supporters.

The National Council operates on a small budget and depends on the continued support, through memberships and donations, of people who see tremendous value in the program. We are planning to build on both of these financial supports as well as to explore new approaches.

Our thanks go out to Nancy Thurston of Nova Scotia, who a few years ago initiated sales of Parent-Child Mother Goose bags, and continues to operate this fundraiser on a volunteer basis.



With the festive season approaching, we hope that some of you will consider giving these eco-friendly cloth bags this year!

If you are interested in participating on the Fundraising and Membership Committee, please contact us at info@nationalpcmgp.ca.

Program and Training Committee

Ruth Danziger, Ontario
Lori Fritz, Newfoundland
Lynda Howes, Ontario

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. It has been a full year of activity from around the country.

In January, 2019 we held the fourth annual teleconference meeting with PCMGP's teacher training workshop facilitators. Discussion focused on two questions:

- a) Values: What do you see as the values of P-CMG as embodied in our programs?
- b) Storytelling: In our TTWs we demonstrate that rhymes can be little stories for parent and child to enjoy together. Storytelling to the adults is also part of a P-CMGP. In these training workshops how can we (do we) help build confidence in the teachers-in-training when it comes to telling stories to the adults attending the program?

All the teacher trainers across Canada were invited to participate and had a chance to discuss the values embodied in P-CMGP as well as storytelling that is a core aspect of this program. We found the annual facilitators meeting full of connection and inspiration. There were so many powerful reflections. We have been planning the next teleconference to encourage national connections amongst TTW facilitators. We had almost full attendance and are discussing the possibility of planning meetings that could also include facilitators from both Australia and Iran.

In the 2018-19 year, one new workshop facilitator applied and received her certificate to run the PCMGP Teacher Training Workshops: Lynda Howes, (Ontario), completed her training as a TTW Facilitator. This is in addition to her many years of experience as a Storytelling workshop Facilitator.

In addition, there has been discussion with Carol Dwyer and Chantal Rodgers in Newfoundland and Labrador regarding the mentoring project currently being supported by the provincial Early Literacy Division of the Department of Education. There has been provincial training and Carol and Chantal are mentoring newly trained teachers across the island as well as in Labrador. The

committee discussed with them ways to support this initiative and Family Resource Centres in rural areas who are facing unique challenges.

We continued to review the self-evaluation process. The self-evaluation report and guidelines were streamlined. There was also a decision made to change the request for report forms from every term to once every 30 weeks. We also continue to discuss ways to read and respond to the reflections and reports. We agree that while it would be ideal to respond to each application in depth, we do not have resources to do so at this time.

There is also a little news internationally.

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. The programs she runs appear to be thriving and she has always made a point of staying in touch with us.

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

