

National Parent-Child Mother Goose Program



**ANNUAL REPORT
2021**

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

Crystal Murgatroyd
National Administrator
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 rhymes, songs 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 caregivers. 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.

Since its earliest beginnings, Parent-Child Mother Goose has spread across Canada and around the world, helping thousands of families to discover the power and pleasure of rhymes, songs, 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.

Ann Stafford, Quebec

April Jennings, Alberta

Beth Hutchinson, BC

Carol Dwyer, Newfoundland and Labrador

Chantal Rodgers, Newfoundland and Labrador

Desrean McFarlane, Quebec

Ivanka Gotcheva, Ontario

Joan MacDonald, Ontario

Marilee Peters, BC

Maureen Doll, BC

Rebecca Fenton, Yukon

Robin Sales, Quebec

To find out more about the rewards and benefits of contributing to PCMGP as a member of the National Council, contact us at info@nationalpcmgp.ca

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

My role as the Chair of the National Council comes to an end at the Annual General Meeting on November 24, 2021. When I was first appointed in 2014, I would not have predicted that I would be Chair for so long or foreseen the many wonderful experiences and relationships that this role would bring. The last seven years have been filled with many highlights.

I am pleased to have been able to contribute to the growth and development of the National Council and the PCMGP. Over the past few years, the National Council has focused on developing its fundraising efforts, on strengthening relationships with partner agencies, and on diversifying its representation across the country. Despite the challenges that programs have experienced over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, the resilience and commitment that teachers and agencies have demonstrated in continuing to support families has been extremely inspiring.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues on the National Council for their help and support during my tenure as Chair. It is great to have representation on the National Council from many different areas of our country, which helps to ensure that the interests of diverse areas are represented.

« I would like to thank the trainers and teachers whose efforts ensure that the joy of singing, rhyming and storytelling reaches families »

I would also like to thank Crystal Murgatroyd for her valuable assistance as the National Administrator, a key role that she has filled since the spring of 2021. As well, I would like to recognize the staff of the Vermont Square program in Toronto and at the BC Council of Families in Vancouver for their valuable contributions to the program over many years, and the knowledgeable and experienced members of the Program and Training Committee for their guidance and attention to program standards.

There are exciting new projects on the horizon for the National Council, including work through our Diversity Council and Program and Training Committee to help ensure that PCMGP continues to reflect our commitment to diversity and inclusivity.

I look forward to seeing the National Parent-Child Mother Goose Program continue to grow and thrive under its new leadership, with Carol Dwyer and Chantal Rodgers as Co-Chairs. The combined energy, creativity, and leadership of Carol and Chantal is sure to be a winning combination that will no doubt help the National Council to flourish by enhancing what we already have in place, and spur new directions and activities. I am confident they will be a remarkable team, which will provide exemplary leadership for the National Council. Please join me in welcoming Chantal and Carol into their new executive positions.

As I depart from the National Council, I would like to recognize the contributions of two fellow members whose terms are also ending. Ann Stafford and April Jennings have each made incredibly valuable contributions to the National Council over many years and I know that their involvement with PCMGP will continue, even as their tenures as National Council members come to an end.

Finally, I would like to thank the trainers and teachers whose efforts ensure that the joy of singing, rhyming and storytelling reaches families through PCMGP programs in community settings throughout our nation.

I wish PCMGP every success in the future as it continues to support children and families in communities across Canada to grow and thrive.

Marilee Peters
Chair, National Council
Parent-Child Mother Goose Program
November 14, 2021

PROGRAM AND TRAINING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Program and Training Committee is a committee of the National Council that deals with all aspects of our program and training guidelines, development, and policy. It has been a full year of activity from around the country.

In January 2021 we held the fifth annual meeting for PCMGP's teacher trainers, over two different days and times to accommodate as many trainers as possible via Zoom. We thoroughly enjoyed being able to put faces to names and vice versa. This was also the first time that our newer committee members, Maureen Doll from BC and Kate Jarrett from Ontario attended as committee members😊 The focus of the meetings was to discuss the challenges, surprises and positive outcomes of running a PCMG program, or training workshop during this past year of the pandemic.

The committee would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to all those that attended these meetings and for all the reflection that occurred. We found that the one hour wasn't long enough and agreed that this year an hour and a half will be allocated to allow for more in-depth conversation😊

As many programs and teacher training workshops navigated from in person to virtual options, the P & T Committee created a Guidelines and Best Practices for an Online Program document that has been shared with program teachers and is included in workshop training materials. We then converted many of the forms for teacher trainers to be more on-line friendly. We hope these documents have proven to be useful over the past year.

In June of 2021, the P&T Committee prepared a Statement on Training and Development, sent to National Council and Vermont Square.

One member of the P&T Committee, Kate Jarrett has acted as our liaison with the Diversity Committee since it was formed in March 2021.

In international news, in the Spring of 2021, Lynda Howes and Ruth Danziger did a PCMGP Teacher Training Workshop on Zoom, organized by Guita Movallali, with women in Iran and Afghanistan. The training was to support PCMGP programs for Deaf and Hard of Hearing families in various cities in Iran, and at the Adrina clinic in Herat. We hear that those programs, even in Afghanistan, have started up and been able to keep running.

Parent comments from Iran and Afghanistan, programs for Deaf and Hard of Hearing families:

"I love the program. My daughter is becoming more and more interested to listen to stories and I learn to be more creative and active with her in the home"

"Not only my daughter and I, but also my husband and son (who are in in this program) learned a lot of songs! Our home atmosphere has changed to a happy one"

"My deaf son was always used to be so dependent to me. This program made him better so that I can breathe! He also has started to pay attention to songs and I am really so happy"

"I don't know how to say thank you to you teachers. My child for the first time started to socialize with other children in the circle (while doing standing songs)"

As always, we continue to 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 PCMGP® community. Please feel free to contact us at any time 😊

Program and Training Committee:

Ruth Danziger, Ontario rdanziger@ca.inter.net
 Lori Fritz, Newfoundland/Ontario lorellfritz@gmail.com
 Kate Jarrett, Ontario kate.jarrett@sympatico.ca
 Maureen Doll, BC moesdoll@gmail.com

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORT

Donations and memberships remain the foundation of the National Council's finances.

For the fiscal year ended in June 2020, donations totaled \$3,315.00. The comparable total from June 2021 is \$1,448.00. Ten out of the twelve months represented in the 2020 year were before Covid-19 restrictions came into play. All twelve months of the 2021 fiscal year were marked by tremendous uncertainty and often reduced income for agencies and individuals alike.

The effect on memberships is different. The 2020 income from memberships is \$2,851.00 with the 2021 amount is \$3,105.00. This is an increase of \$254.00, not a decrease. Our conjecture is that this increase is because of moving to a pay-what-you-can for that year in order to respond to the needs of the agencies running PCMGP's.

So far, we are encouraged as in the first four months of the fiscal year, we have received \$1,441.00 in donations and \$824.00 in memberships. These four months include the summer, which is usually a low income period of time for the NC.

We encourage everyone to donate! The options have increased. Donations can be made as one time or monthly. This can happen through Canada Helps (find the donate button on the website (nationalpcmgp.ca), through email transfer or by cheque.

The committee has added new members, added to our plans and boosted our calendar planning and review. Our most recent donation request letter went out in October.

We want to announce and invite you all to a virtual event planned for this coming February. We will gather on Zoom to celebrate and honour former National Council members. This will include everyone who has been on a committee as well as all who have been National Council members.

Others are welcome. This will be a free event with an invitation to donate. You are all invited!

Fundraising Committee:

Beth Hutchinson
Robin Sales
Marilee Peters
Ann Stafford



DIVERSITY COUNCIL REPORT

On March 5, 2021, the first meeting of the PCMGP Diversity Council took place. This came to be because of a letter recieved from an Indigenous mother on Vancouver Island, who had greatly enjoyed the program with her two daughters. However, she had recognized the racist origins of one song being taught and even though the words were changed, it left her feeling less at ease in the program.

The National Council spent some time reflecting personally as well as on the program as a whole. We were clear that the PCMGP at its core reflects and respects the diversity of its participants, trainers and leaders. However, we thought it did make sense to take a careful look at the issue.

We established a committee, currently of seven PCMGP involved people. Amongst us we have the following cultural heritages: Chinese, English, Irish, Jamaican, Mauritian, Plains Cree, Quebecois, Guatemalan, Scottish and Welsh. Three are members of the National Council and one is a member of the Program and Training Committee.

We began by reviewing the songs and rhymes provided to participants in PCMGP Teacher Training Workshops. We will soon be ready to share our thoughts with the Program and Training Committee.

We look forward to furthering this kind of discussion within the program and to communicating further with program trainers and teachers. We are open to a few more members and especially to continuing expansion of our cultural diversity.

If you are interested in participating as a member of the Diversity Council, please contact us through info@nationalpcmgp.ca.

Diversity Council:

Beth Hutchinson
Kate Jarrett
Desrean McFarlane
Lorinda Seto
Ann Stafford
Noemi Stafford
Gabrielle Thomas

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Another year with mostly online programs. Despite all the challenges the virtual programs gave the unique opportunity to extended family members from different generations and living in different provinces or even in different countries to unite on Zoom and participate together in Mother Goose sessions.

Mother Goose newsletter told interesting stories and shared experience from programs across Canada and around the world. Mother Goose teachers from Newfoundland and Labrador; Winnipeg, Manitoba; Montreal, Quebec shared their experience in the program during this challenging for everyone year. Also, it told the story of how Mother Goose reached Afghanistan in March this year.

Each one of the 4 issues had updates from the National Council and its Committees. Stories from different countries and continents were shared: El Salvador, Bulgaria, Vietnam, and a Mi'kmaq native legend from Atlantic Canada.

Together with popular rhymes we published rhymes in Farsi used by the program teachers in Iran and Afghanistan.

The Communication Committee would like to invite everyone to share with us and through the newsletter with the entire Mother Goose family their experience, favourite stories and rhymes, and parents' feedback.

Our goal for next year is to introduce more PCMG programs and to show their diversity and uniqueness. Also, we are working towards distributing the newsletter to all libraries in Canada and why not to other countries. Maybe this will bring more Mother Geese and more goslings to our family.

Happy writing and rhyming!

From the Communication Committee

Communication Committee:

Ivanka Gotcheva
April Jennings
Robin Sales