

# Newsletter Highlights

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2025 CYCWAM Annual  
General Meeting

2026 National & World  
Conference

Let's Hear from You!

# Happy New Year

Happy New Year to all our dedicated Child and Youth Care Workers! As we step into 2025, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible work you do and to look ahead with optimism and purpose.

The past year has been one of growth and resilience for our profession, and it's clear that together, we continue to make a profound impact on the lives of children, youth, and families in our communities. As we move forward, our strength lies in building even stronger connections within the Child and Youth Care community. Now, more than ever, it's important that we support one another, share knowledge, and continue to raise the profile of the vital work we do.

As an association, we are committed to expanding our reach and welcoming new members into our fold. Whether you're just starting out in the field or are a seasoned professional, there's always room for new voices, ideas, and experiences. By growing our membership base, we ensure that our collective voice is louder, stronger, and more impactful in advocating for both the needs of children and youth and the people doing the hard, often unseen work in the field.

I encourage you to connect with colleagues, engage with the association, and invite others to join us. Together, we can continue to build a more inclusive, supportive, and resourceful community of Child and Youth Care Workers.

Here's to a year of connection, growth, and continued dedication to the children and youth we serve.

Warm regards,

Chelsea Champagne  
President, Child and Youth Care Workers Association of Manitoba

*We respectfully recognize that  
the places we work are located  
on original lands of  
Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree,  
Dakota, and Dene peoples, and  
on the homeland of the Métis  
Nation.*

## MEMBERSHIP RESTRUCTURING

The Board of the Child and Youth Care Workers' Association of Manitoba recognizes the financial challenges faced by Child and Youth Care Workers, and in response, we are adjusting our membership structure to make it more accessible and affordable.

Effective January 1st, 2025, when membership renewals begin, we will simplify our membership categories. There will no longer be separate memberships for students, individuals, and corporate member staff. Instead, the following unified membership rates will apply:

**Individual Membership: \$20**  
**Corporate Membership: \$300**

This change aims to meet the needs of the people we support while making membership more affordable and streamlined for everyone. In addition to these changes, we are going paperless! You will receive an electronic version of a membership card and all newsletters will be sent out electronically.

As always, the Association remains committed to providing valuable learning and training opportunities to enhance professional growth and development in the field of Child and Youth Care. We are excited to continue offering resources and events that support you in your important work.

We appreciate your continued dedication to the field and look forward to your ongoing involvement with the Association.

If you have any questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to contact us at [info@cycwam.org](mailto:info@cycwam.org).

Sincerely,  
Chelsea Champagne - President



*CLICK HERE TO  
BECOME A MEMBER*

***NEED TO ACCESS THE ELECTRONIC MEMBERSHIP FORM?  
SCAN THE QR CODE!***



**Dear CYCs..  
Are you a member yet?**



Scan the QR code above to access the membership form!

Being a member of CYCWAM helps our profession get more acknowledgement and recognition the greater our numbers are. More member numbers mean we have a greater voice to reach the government to implement change in our field and provide better resources and support for Child and Youth Care Workers.

Being a member you will get you access to our newsletter, as well gives you the opportunity to attend professional development and training opportunities, receive discount for Provincial and National Conferences and more.

By becoming a member of CYCWAM you automatically become a member of the Council of Canadian Child and Youth Care Associations.

Memberships are renewed annually at the beginning of each calendar year and are valid between January 1 and December 31.

To become a member complete the electronic CYCWAM Membership Form and pay for your membership via e-transfer to [treasurer@cycwam.org](mailto:treasurer@cycwam.org)

## CYC STUDENT FEATURE: DESSA STARR

Hello, My name is Dessa.

I am a first year Child and Youth Care student at RRC Polytech. I come from very humble beginnings. My life has been affected by many traumas, some that are mine, and many that have been passed down through generations. I was the epitome of the “at risk” child that I’ve studied in my courses. I’ve related to content in ways that would be difficult for me to share. In short, I will say that I’ve been in situations where I should not have escaped. It’s incredibly bittersweet for me to say that. Although I am very fortunate to say that I am here today despite my history, there are so many like me who sadly cannot say the same. All of these reasons have driven me to join the Child and Youth Care field.

I could say that I want to change the world, but the world is a sphere and it will stay that way long after I am gone. I do however seek to cause a reaction. In teaching my son, I told him that if he spreads kindness, it will foster kindness in others, and how the choice to spread negativity will have the same effect. You know the usual stuff you say to kids. Now, imagine. If you were to spread resiliency, what would happen? To be resilient is one of the most difficult things to achieve, if you haven’t come from an environment where it is a requirement. Giving up is so much easier. I’ve heard people say ‘I don’t want to be resilient anymore. I am tired.’ It’s not an option for most, and for others they don’t even realize how much they truly possess until it is pointed out.

The stories that belong to our children are funny, wondrous, scary, heartbreaking, and need to be heard. My instructors have instilled the philosophy of “just being there” in their lessons. Child and Youth Care practitioners can be so many things in various places, but being present is the most important thing to be for the children that we will care for. We are going to just be there to hear everything that needs to be said, with all of our resiliency and positivity to invest. The reactions that we are bound to cause in the lives of the youth that we will serve can have incredible impacts. The obligation that we need to uphold for our youth is to ensure that we are at our absolute best, so we can help to cause positive reactions to promote positive outcomes for our youth.

We as a class have been subjected to horrible and at times very relatable content. However, the strategy was clear, if we cannot handle hearing these atrocities in the safe space of a classroom, how would we ever keep it together when we hear it firsthand from the child before us. Now I say that our classes have been difficult but that doesn't take away from the fact that from the very first day, I knew that I was exactly where I was always meant to be.

Thank you all for your incredible contributions to this beautiful and essential field.

Dessa Starr  
Child and Youth Care Student.

Empowerment Expo



# NAVIGATING YOUR FUTURE WITH CSA SETTLEMENTS



Were You in the Care of CFS Between January 1, 2005, and March 31, 2019? If so, you may be eligible for compensation through the CSA Settlement.

Join us at our Drop-In Event to gain valuable information, connect with others, and get the support you need throughout your settlement process.

#### Event Highlights:

- Teachings from Lived Experts
- Q&A Session with the Legal Team Managing the Settlement
- Financial Empowerment Workshop
- Community Resources

**To participate or for more details**

**email: [sperez@maccp.ca](mailto:sperez@maccp.ca) or call: 204-997-0262**

**Jan. 21  
2025**

Session 1  
12-3pm

Session 2  
3-7pm

**90 Sinclair St**







WE REQUEST YOUR PRESENCE  
AT OUR OPEN HOUSE

# Annual General Meeting

APRIL

WEDNESDAY

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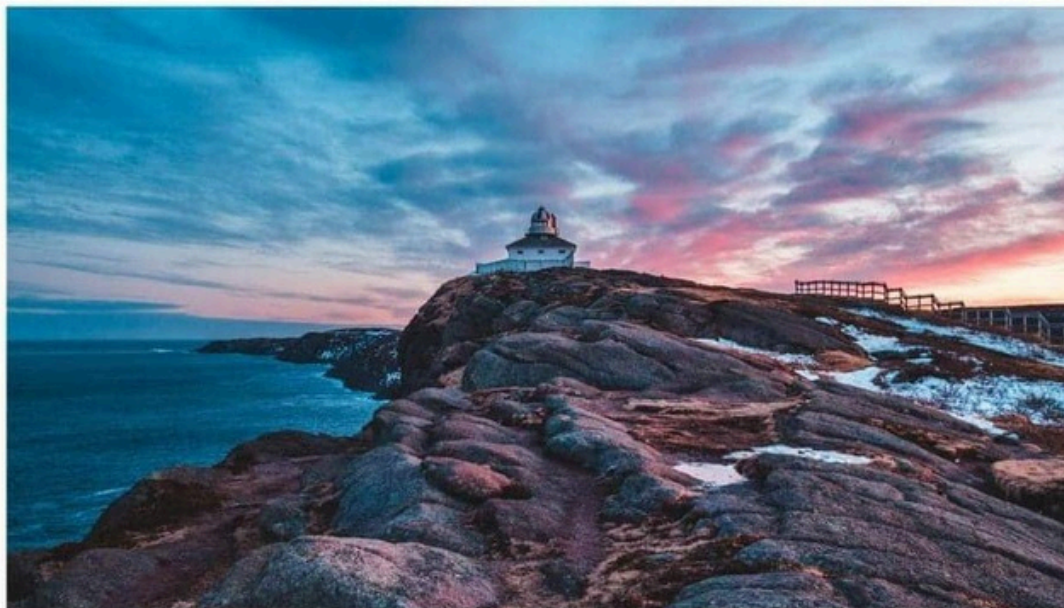
2025

AT 5PM

SELKIRK LOUNGE (Building A)  
Red River College Polytech  
2055 Notre Dame Ave, Winnipeg, MB  
PLEASE RSVP TO [info@cycwam.org](mailto:info@cycwam.org)  
Food and Drink Provided  
With Guest Speaker Jessica Hadley CYC



# Save the Date: June 23-26, 2026 St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador



**CYC-Net and the Child and Youth  
Care Association of Newfoundland  
and Labrador, proudly announce the  
dates for the next combined National  
and World conference!**



*Amazing local culture awaits*





# WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



Want to be featured in our newsletter?  
Do you have feedback or any stories to share?

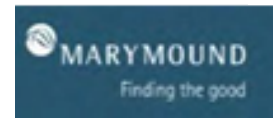


Send them our way!

Email us at [info@cycwam.org](mailto:info@cycwam.org).  
Include your story and your name  
or indicate if you want to remain  
anonymous!



CHILD  
AND  
FAMILY  
SERVICES  
OF  
WESTERN  
MANITOBA



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