



Boys & Girls Clubs of Canada
Clubs Garçons & Filles du Canada



Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada
National Conference 2006
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Leading, Growing, Achieving

Clubs Garçons et Filles du Canada
Conférence nationale 2006
Halifax, Nouvelle-Écosse
Diriger, Grandir, Réussir

Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada National Conference 2006 focuses on community safety, youth violence and child health. May 31 – June 3, 2006, Halifax

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **MARKHAM (May 24, 2006)** – Over 365 Boys and Girls Club child and youth development professionals and volunteer leaders from across Canada will converge on Halifax, Nova Scotia from May 31-June 3, 2006 to discuss solutions to some of the leading social issues facing Canadian young people, families and communities including: community safety, youth violence, and child fitness and emotional health.

These discussions will be part of Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada's (BGCC) National Conference 2006, "Leading, Growing, Achieving" to be held at the Marriott Harbourfront Hotel in downtown Halifax. The Conference is hosted by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Nova Scotia. There are eight Clubs in the province providing programs to more than 2,100 young people. Delegates will share best practices and innovations in providing recreational, educational and social development programs to 154,000 Canadian children and youth and their families in communities across Canada.

Delegates will also learn from an impressive slate of child and youth development experts and researchers including well-known researcher and professor, **Dr. Gina Browne**, Professor of the School of Nursing & Dept. of Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics in the Faculty of Health Sciences at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. Excerpting from her research paper, "*When the Bough Breaks*", Dr. Browne will discuss both the human and economic value of investing in recreation and community-based services as primary prevention against long-term, costly intervention and treatment programs for low income families with chronic health issues (Friday, June 2, 8:45-10:00 a.m.). This presentation is sponsored by the Nova Scotia Department of Health Promotion and Protection.

Also presenting will be **Jim Cox**, Vice-President, Urban Services, Boys and Girls Clubs of America. He will speak about the growing seriousness of **youth violence** in our communities and how to apply successfully demonstrated approaches to ending the culture of violence that exists in many communities. (Thursday, June 1, 9:00 -10:30 a.m.) This presentation is sponsored by the National Crime Prevention Centre.

Cindy Blackstock, Executive Director of the First Nations and Family Caring Society of Canada, will share her views about the need for First Nations service agencies and voluntary sector organizations to work together for the benefit of all children, youth and families. Cindy will discuss the principles of reconciliation in child welfare and why it is needed in children and youth services. She will also review the history of colonization and how it shapes the contemporary lives of **First Nations children and youth** and present research on the risks experienced by First Nations children and youth and associated solutions. This presentation is sponsored by the National Crime Prevention Centre.

Other program highlights of the National Conference 2006 include: a **Town Hall** discussion on "**Safety in Our Communities**" moderated by Don Connolly, CBC Radio, Halifax (Thurs., June 1, 3:15 – 4:45 p.m.)

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Panelists participating in the Town Hall are: Corey Lucas, Dartmouth Boys and Girls Club; Patricia McNally – Omagh Boys and Girls Club; Craig Smith, RCMP; Paula Marshall, Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network; Jim Cox, Boys and Girls Clubs of America. This event is sponsored by the National Crime Prevention Centre and Nova Scotia Department of Justice.

Linda Millar, Vice-President of Education, **Concerned Children's Advertisers**, will speak about the problem of bullying called "Bullying Hurts: Let's Work to Stop it!" at a public Community Forum on Thursday, June 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the Marriott Harbourfront Hotel (Nova Scotia CD room). Tickets (\$20 each) are available through the Boys and Girls Clubs of Nova Scotia. This presentation is sponsored by Dept. of Education, National Crime Prevention Centre, CIBC, Concerned Children's Advertisers, and the Nova Scotia School Boards Association.

Halifax native, **Anne Bulley**, M.Ed., author of Take It E.A.S.Y! (Empowerment and Self-Esteem for Youth) and other resources for youth development professionals, will provide workshops on how to help teens and preteens make healthy life choices and face common difficulties such as, peer pressure, body image, conflict and sexuality, equipped with the confidence and information they need to make the right decisions (Friday, June 2 from 10:15-11:45 a.m.). This workshop is sponsored by Unilever.

The winners of the national, **ICAN Digital Arts Contest**, sponsored by Microsoft Canada, will be announced on Thursday, June 1 at 12:30 p.m. Entries from Boys and Girls Club youth from across Canada, ages 6 -18, demonstrating creative use of digital technology in video production, website design and photography will be displayed.

Boys and Girls Club of Dartmouth, NS alumnus, Dean Lee will speak about how his involvement with Boys and Girls Clubs changed his life at the BGCC Conference Gala Dinner (Saturday, June 3, 7:00–9:30 p.m.) The evening will also feature a performance by the **North Preston Junior Choir** accompanied by the drumming of **Dr. Henry Bishop**.

Fifty-five deserving young people from across Canada will be announced as the 2006 recipients of the **Future Shop Future Leaders Scholarships** (Saturday, June 3 at 12:30 p.m.). Each recipient will receive \$3,000 to put toward his/her post-secondary education at the institution of his/her choice for the 2006/07 school term.

About Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada

Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada is a leading provider of programs to children and youth that support the healthy physical, educational and social development of more than 154,000 young people and their families each year. In 700 community locations across Canada, clubs offer after-school programs in physical recreation, technology, the arts, personal growth and more. Many clubs also provide meals, emergency shelter, family support programs and other supports to children, youth and families at risk. Boys and Girls Clubs have been helping young Canadians to discover, develop and achieve their potential, for over 100 years. To learn more, visit www.bgccan.com.

About Boys and Girls Clubs of Nova Scotia

Boys and Girls Clubs of Nova Scotia provides organizational and development services to eight Boys and Girls Clubs in Nova Scotia to support their optimal performance as community leaders in the provision of programs to children, youth and families. Boys and Girls Clubs in Nova Scotia are leading providers of programs that support the healthy physical, educational and social development of more than 2,100 children and youth a year. Club programs have been benefiting young people in Nova Scotia for more than 50 years. Boys and Girls Clubs of Nova Scotia is a member of Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada, a national movement of clubs with 700 community locations, currently serving more than 154,000 children and youth a year.

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