



Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada  
Clubs Garçons et Filles du Canada



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**Boys and Girls Clubs gather in Kelowna, BC for  
Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada National Conference  
April 28 – May 1, 2004**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **MARKHAM (April 26, 2004)** – Over 350 Boys and Girls Club child and youth development professionals and volunteer leaders from across Canada will meet in Kelowna, British Columbia from April 28 to May 1 for the 2004 Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada (BGCC) National Conference. Delegates will share their dedication to children, youth and families, their best practices in providing recreational, educational and social development programs for young Canadians and learn from an impressive line-up of speakers and workshops. The Conference will be hosted by the Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs and will be held at the Grand Okanagan Lakefront Resort.

Headlining the impressive slate of keynote speakers and workshops is Barbara Coloroso, one of the world's most trusted parent educators and author of two international best sellers. Thanks to the generous support of Sears Canada's Sears Young Futures program, Coloroso will discuss the issue of bullying, excerpting from her latest book, *"The Bully, the bullied and the bystander: From Pre-school to High school How Parents and Teachers Can Help Break the Cycle of Violence"*, at the Conference (Saturday, May 1 at 8:45 a.m.). She will also speak at a special public community event on the same topic (Friday, April 30 at 7:00 p.m.) at the Kelowna Community Theatre. Tickets (\$10 each) are available through the Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs.

Also presenting keynotes are: Dr. Clyde Hertzman, MD, FRCPC, a respected researcher in the field of early childhood development with the Department of Health Care and Epidemiology at the University of British Columbia (Thursday, April 29 at 8:45 a.m.); and Hugh Culver, a successful businessman, athlete and entrepreneur (Friday, April 30 at 8:15 a.m.).

Other program highlights include workshops by Linda Millar, Vice-President of Education, Concerned Children's Advertisers (Thursday, April 29 at 1:00 p.m.), who will speak about providing the tools to help children become media literate, by learning how to watch TV wisely; and by Anne Bulley, author of Take It E.A.S.Y. (Empowerment and Self-Esteem for Youth) and other resources for youth development professionals. Bulley will provide a workshop for program leaders, volunteers and youth who work with teens and preteens, which addresses difficulties faced by teens and preteens such as, peer pressure, body image, conflict and sexuality, as they struggle with the challenges that puberty brings (Wednesday, April 28 at 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.).

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Her Honour, The Honourable Iona Campagnolo, PC, CM, OBC, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia will also address Conference delegates (Friday, April 30 from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.) while presiding over the Bell Canada Awards of Excellence Luncheon, a national awards program of BGCC, which honours innovation and leadership in club program development for Canadian children and youth across Canada. Presenting the Awards to the five recipients will be David Hoff, Director of Government Relations, Bell West.

In addition, to this special event, the Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs will celebrate 45 years of service to the children, youth and families of the Okanagan Valley with a 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner and Celebration (Thursday, April 29 at 6:00 p.m.) at the Kelowna Curling Club. The Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada will host its Annual General Meeting and Luncheon on Saturday, May 1 (12:00 – 2:30 p.m.) followed by the Conference finale, the BGCC Gala Dinner (7:30 – 9:30 p.m.), featuring the inaugural Microsoft I CAN Digital Arts Contest Awards Presentations, which will be presented to Boys and Girls Club youth, ranging in age from 7 to 18 from Vancouver, BC, Calgary, AB and Toronto, ON for creative use of digital technology in video production, website design and photography. The evening will also feature dancing and singing performances by Boys and Girls Club youths Jamie Farquhar, from Charlottetown, PEI and Amanda Labelle from the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa, as well as the awarding of 25 “Future Grants” by Future Shop.

#### **About Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada**

Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada (BGCC) is a leading national youth organization established over 100 years ago. BGCC’s network of 101 community-based clubs help children and youth reach their full potential, by providing safe, fun and stimulating recreational, educational and social development programs. Club programs aim to build skills, develop character and foster self-esteem in children and youth, so that they can become healthy, contributing adults. Clubs currently offer services to 150,000 children and youth in 430 communities nationwide. Please visit [www.bgccan.com](http://www.bgccan.com) for more details.

#### **About the Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs**

Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs is a vibrant, registered non-profit organization that provides a full range of programs and services to children, youth and families. The Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs are part of the Boys and Girls Club of Canada, a national non-profit organization. Our programs and services have grown with our communities to address the developmental, personal, social, and recreational needs of children, youth and their families. Programs range from licensed daycare, youth drop-in centres, parents together to restorative justice programs, to name only a few of the dozens of programs and services offered. The Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs serve a population of 300,000 from Enderby to Osoyoos, and have been operating for over 42 years since the inception of the Kelowna Boys Club in 1959. Our programs operate 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 825 young people come through our doors every day and benefit from our services, for a total of over 300,000 visits per year.