

For Immediate Release:

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## ANNOUNCING PARTNERSHIP ON MAJOR GLOBAL CHILD RIGHTS RESEARCH PROJECT

**TORONTO** – Today the [Child Welfare Political Action Committee Canada](#) (Child Welfare PAC), a not-for-profit organization of former youth in care, is proud to announce its formal participation in a multimillion dollar *International & Canadian Child Rights Partnership* project that will collect knowledge from around the world to improve child rights in Canada and beyond.

The project, which has been awarded a nearly \$2.5 million federal grant for multiple research studies over seven years, includes those with lived experiences in foster care systems, 41 researchers, and 30 partner organizations from universities, NGOs, major human rights institutions, and governments in Canada, the Americas, Africa, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

The Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Partnership Grant will fund the project – led by Dr. Tara Collins of Ryerson University.

The goal of the project is to fill in major data gaps to advance child rights by transforming research, policy, and practice through intergenerational partnerships that support participation of children.

Co-applicant for the project and Child Welfare PAC Founder, Jane Kovarikova, will lead one research study as part of the broader project. This study will investigate how greater participation of those with lived experiences in the foster care system in advocacy roles across time can improve the child protection sector. This will begin in early 2022.

**"One reason we continue to see poor life outcomes for foster kids after care is because no one follows up to see if well-meaning policies have worked. That is why we advocate for and contribute to research in child welfare practice," said Jane Kovarikova, doctoral candidate at Western and former youth-in-care.**

**"The wisdom acquired by people who were raised in foster care over their life course is being lost and unsuccessful child welfare policies prove it," said Kovarikova. "This research will explore the impact of intergenerational inclusion in the field."**

The project will extend and sustain collaborations across Canada, between the Global South and North, and between generations, and will help re-establish Canada's leadership in this critical area.

**"This research will make a major contribution to child rights in Canada and beyond," concluded Kovarikova.**

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### Foster Care in Canada Quick Facts:

- We do not know how many foster kids are in Canada because of a lack of standardization of definitions and reporting across country.
- Typical outcomes for youth who age out of care include: low academic achievement; unemployment or underemployment; homelessness and housing insecurity; criminal justice system involvement; early parenthood; poor physical and mental health; early death; and loneliness.
- Neither foster care systems nor service providers typically measure impact of interventions designed to support youth.
- Foster care systems are unaccountable to taxpayers because there is no way to confirm that investments resulted in better life outcomes for kids.

- These publicly funded systems are exempt from public scrutiny via freedom of information requests.

**About [Child Welfare PAC](#)**

The Child Welfare PAC is a federal charity that represents the interests of children raised by the government. The advisory committee consists of professionals from academia, law, business, advocacy & public service who have lived experience in child protection systems. See here for advocacy agenda: <https://www.childwelfarepac.com/our-work-new>

**About [ICCRP](#)**

The International and Canadian Child Rights Partnership (ICCRP) recognizes child participation as a human right, as well as a necessary part of monitoring and addressing protection concerns. Here at the ICCRP, adult researchers work directly alongside Child and Youth Advisory Committee members on all aspects of research design, acquisition and dissemination. See here for more information: <https://www.ryerson.ca/international-canadian-child-rights-partnership/>

**See here for a listing of SSHRC grant winners:** <https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/results-resultats/recipient-recipientaires/2020/pg-sp-eng.aspx>

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