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## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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### **From coast to coast, Canada hosts series of international conferences in 2017, highlighting growth and momentum in the movement to connect children, families and communities to the benefits of nature**

**VANCOUVER, B.C.—April 17, 2017:** Kicking off with the 2017 Children & Nature Network International Conference in Vancouver April 18-21, Canada will host a series of high-profile conferences and meetings in 2017, focused on increasing connections to nature, environmental education, sustainable development and children’s healthy development.

“We are thrilled to bring our Children & Nature conference to Canada as the first in this series of events,” says Sarah Milligan-Toffler, Executive Director of the Children & Nature Network. “At a time when a majority of the world’s people live in urban areas, ensuring connections to nature, increasing environmental literacy and inspiring a conservation ethic is more important than ever. Canada, with its incredible public lands, commitment to children and innovative urban planning is the perfect place to gather leading international thinkers and activists working on these issues.”

## **2017 Schedule of International Nature Connection Conferences in Canada**

### **[Children & Nature Network International Conference and Summit](#)**

**April 18-21, 2017 | Westin Bayshore Conference Center, Vancouver, B.C.**

More than 800 leaders from 22 countries will convene in Vancouver B.C. at this premier gathering of the children and nature movement. The three-day event, co-hosted with the [Canadian Wildlife Federation](#), offers nine conference tracks, featuring keynote addresses, action labs and workshops designed to inspire and equip multidisciplinary leaders with the tools and resources they need to improve equitable access to nature in their communities.

[childrenandnature.org/cnc2017](http://childrenandnature.org/cnc2017) #CNC2017 #NatureForAll

**[The Canadian Network for Environmental Education \(Eecom\) 2017 See Change Conference](#)**

**May 18 - 21, 2017 | Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia**

In conjunction with the 25th anniversary of the Canadian Network for Environmental Education & Communication, Eecom will bring 400 environmental educators from a wide range of settings to Nova Scotia in May to explore and share how innovative learning inspires a deeper connection to nature and more sustainable lifestyles and communities while supporting a life-giving planet. More than 125 workshops are scheduled with a focus on hands-on, interactive learning. [eecom.org/2017-conference](http://eecom.org/2017-conference) #Eecom2017 #NatureForAll

**[World Environmental Education Congress \(WEEC\), hosted by The Institute for Environmental Learning](#) | September 9-15, 2017 | Vancouver Convention Centre, Vancouver, B.C.**

The World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC) is the largest international congress addressing education for environment and sustainable development, worldwide. The 9th annual WEEC congress is hosted by Simon Fraser University and the Institute for Environmental Learning and will serve as an international meeting point for people working in environmental education and sustainable development, and for those interested in the fields.

[weec2017.org](http://weec2017.org) #EnviroEd #NatureForAll

**[The 20th International Play Association Triennial World Conference](#)**

**September 13-16, 2017 | Telus Convention Centre, Calgary, Alberta**

The IPA World Conference brings together a diverse group of participants from across the play spectrum including play researchers, advocates, designers, educators, providers and policymakers. The conference, themed “Unleashing the Power of Play,” and includes key tracks on nature play, parks, landscape design, and nature’s impact on child/family health and well-being. [canada2017.ipaworld.org/](http://canada2017.ipaworld.org/) #NatureForAll

**[The Association for Experiential Education \(AEE\) 45th International Conference](#)**

**November 9-11, 2017 | Le Centre Sheraton Hotel, Montreal**

The AEE International Conference is the largest gathering of experiential educators and practitioners, bringing together more than 700 facilitators, educators, consultants, practitioners, and students from over 20 countries. Participants will connect with experiential educators from around the world, share knowledge through workshops and networking opportunities, and grow both personally and professionally through the experience.

[aee.org/45th-intl-conference](http://aee.org/45th-intl-conference) #NatureForAll

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