



Seasons of Change and the Ottawa Forest and Nature School

The sun's warmth. Cool rains. Songbirds. Muddy boots. Signs of children renewing their fairer-weather play...It's Spring - and the Forest is, again, teaching us the lessons, possibilities and promises of change.

This Spring is also a marked season of change for the Ottawa Forest and Nature School (OFNS).

It is with the utmost anticipation, humility, excitement and respect that we announce, beginning July 1, the management and operations of OFNS will transition to Andrew Fleck Children's Services (AFCS).

Change! Indeed! Why the shift? What does this mean for OFNS programs? These are all important questions...

First, we'd like to say that OFNS will remain open with the same great team, in the same great place, with the same great programs.

We'd like to thank you for your patience as we have been coordinating with Andrew Fleck to get everything ready for summer camp registration.

Registration for summer camps will be opened by Andrew Fleck on Tuesday April 16th at noon. CNAC will send a registration link by email on Tuesday morning, and it will also be posted to the [CNAC](#) and [OFNS](#) FaceBook pages.

To look back - in August 2014, The Child and Nature Alliance of Canada (CNAC) launched OFNS. It set sail, that first day, with 2 children and families on board. Now, 5 years onwards, OFNS' branches have grown - to the extent that our little school in the Forest supports play and learning for well over 1500 children, families and educators per year across the Ottawa region. We're indebted for the support from caregivers, parents,

teachers, funder's and others in our community, that have made these ripples and waves possible.

And, in spite of its growth, "the more things change, the more they stay the same", as they say. At any moment in the Forest, we can bear witness to our roots - children playing and learning, and connecting with the land and one another. OFNS has established itself as a "hub" and demonstration site, for best practice and what is possible in Forest and Nature School. With that inspiration, CNAC continues to set sail - carving new waves and planting new roots - to grow this movement and support children's longing to play in Nature, across Canada, for *all*.

So, beginning July 1, the fruits of OFNS are ripe for another organization to take on the front-line delivery of programs, and nurture them into their next chapters. CNAC has been collaborating with AFCS for years now, working together to strengthen opportunities for children's outdoor play and outdoor learning in our communities. We have a shared commitment to OFNS, the demonstration of best practices in Forest and Nature School and being leaders in this field.

We could not have asked for a better partner to hold true to our strong roots, while continuing to push and grow the school's branches.

Further details about this transition are provided in this [FAQ](#).

We also welcome your questions and would invite you to contact admin@childnature.ca

Warmly,

The CNAC & OFNS Team