

Questions! What does this transfer of programs to Andrew Fleck Children's Services mean for the OFNS community?...

"Same great team, same great place, same great program!"



About Andrew Fleck Children's Services (AFCS):

1. Why the Change, Why Now?

CNAC has loved bringing OFNS to life. We've seen it grow and mature with an amazing team of educators and an increasing number of fun and muddy boots. We have enjoyed our time with friends in the forest at Corkstown Road, and we feel now is the time to hand over the program delivery to Andrew Fleck - an organization with a passion for outdoor play and delivering quality programs for children. We feel the OFNS team and families will be very well served by this transition.

CNAC is continually looking for how we can grow the forest school and nature-based play movement so that more children across Canada can get outside. It is in this spirit that we will be focusing on our national work - offering the CNAC Forest School Canada's Practitioners Course and other professional learning opportunities to educators from coast to coast to coast. The more educators that

are trained in this work means more children can get outside and play. We're excited to expand on this work.

CNAC has been collaborating with AFCS for three years, working together to strengthen opportunities for children's outdoor play and outdoor learning in our communities. Both CNAC and AFCS are passionate about making outdoor nature-based play accessible for *all* children. We have a shared commitment to OFNS, the demonstration of best practices in Forest and Nature School and being leaders in this field.

Andrew Fleck Children's Services is one of the largest children's services providers in the Ottawa region and has demonstrated a deep commitment to embedding the forest school approach into their programs. This partnership with OFNS provides a tremendous opportunity to get even more muddy boots outside across Ottawa.

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.

2. What is Andrew Fleck? What is the relationship between CNAC and AFCS?

AFCS is a not-for-profit multi-service/multi-site organization that has been offering services and supports to Ottawa families since 1911. They have an excellent reputation in the community as leaders and innovators. We encourage you to visit their website www.afchildrensservices.ca to learn more about the amazing programs that they offer throughout Ottawa. A few years ago CNAC and AFCS formalized their collaboration and since then they have worked closely to promote Forest and Nature School principles in all AFCS programs. Both CNAC and AFCS will continue to work closely together from 411 Corkstown Road - we continue to have more great plans!

3. What experience does AFCS have with Forest and Nature School?

AFCS has invested significantly in the Forest and Nature Practitioner certification training; two cohorts (over 46 AFCS employees) have participated with representation from every one of their programs. Their Stittsville preschool program has been onsite at the OFNS cabin two-full days a week since October 2018. These experiences, and their overarching belief and commitment to this work, means they are well prepared and the right agency to deliver OFNS programs moving forward.

4. Will CNAC's headquarters continue to be at 411 Corkstown Road?

Yes! CNAC will continue to be located from the new office cabin at Wesley Clover Parks. We will be collaborating and learning with AFCS and OFNS, and continue to support the school a demonstration site for Forest and Nature School best practice.

Programs and Registration:

5. Will the Ottawa Forest and Nature School continue to follow the same approach and philosophy?

Absolutely. Our commitment to outdoor play and learning continues to be at the heart of the Ottawa Forest and Nature School. Children's days will continue to follow the same arc, and be filled with joy, laughter, challenge, storytelling and the learning that unfolds through play in the forest.

6. Are you still running summer camp? Are summer programs going to be the same?

Yes! Our week-long Forest School summer camps will be running. We will host the same weeks and hours from previous years, and children will enjoy the same educators, and a familiar program and rhythm that we have honed over the years.

7. When is registration open for summer camp? How is registration going to work?

Summer Camp registration opens for all families April 16th, 2019 at 12:00 PM (noon).

The Summer Camp REGISTRATION LINK will be sent by email from CNAC, and posted on the [CNAC](#) and [OFNS](#) FaceBook Pages.

THE LINK WILL BE SENT AT 9AM ON APRIL 16th.

Please note that AFCS will be offering 2019 summer camp registration with the same two week limit per child.

8. What about OFNS School-Year Programs? What will be the process be for Fall 2019 registration, for returning families and others?

Registration dates for Fall 2019 and Winter/Spring 2020 have not yet been confirmed; and, these programs will be continuing as they have!

Fall 2019 registration will be managed by Andrew Fleck. Rest assured that children and families who are currently enrolled in OFNS, and their siblings, will continue to

have priority. Registration information will be made available via email from CNAC and AFCS, and through the AFCS facebook page (we would encourage you to follow their [page here!](#))

9. Are the OFNS program fees or hours going to change?

No, not at this time. Program fees and hours will remain the same for all OFNS programs. The summer camp program fees will be the same as 2018, and camp hours will be from 9:00am to 4:00pm each day. School year fees and program hours will also remain the same looking ahead to the Fall 2019.

10. Will you be offering before and after care programs now?

No. OFNS program offerings and hours will remain the same.

11. Will the education team be the same?

We understand how meaningful the relationship is between children and their Educators! CNAC and AFCS value the commitment, experience and joy that our Educators have brought to each day of play and learning in the forest. Current OFNS staff are the first to be offered the opportunity to continue working as an Educator with the Ottawa Forest and Nature School.

And, CNAC will continue to have a hand in the recruitment and hiring of new Educators for the OFNS team moving forward.

12. Are the age ranges for programs going to change?

The age range for OFNS programs remain the same. The age range for preschool programs will continue to be 2.5 to 4, and 4 to 12 years of age for full-day and summer camp programs.

13. Will OFNS continue to use Storypark?

Yes! AFCS has a lot of experience integrating Storypark into their children's programs, and sharing children's forest school experience through the Storypark platform will continue, should you choose.

14. Will OFNS Drop-in Programs continue to run?

Absolutely! Stay tuned for more information and dates.

More questions? More curiosities?

15. Who at CNAC do I communicate with to address other questions I have about this transition?

If you have any additional questions, please contact admin@childnature.ca

16. What will be the OFNS point of contact for AFCS?

If you have any additional questions or comments to direct to Andrew Fleck Children's Services, you are welcome to contact OFNS@afchildrensservices.ca

You can learn more about Andrew Fleck Children's Services and their work within the Ottawa community [here](#)