Children long to play.
That’s true everywhere across Canada, from our wild and remote park lands, to the hills and ravines framing our urban cities, to rocky and sandy coastal regions, and to the tundra and mossy landscapes of the North.

They have not forgotten how to play.
Every morning when they wake up, their curiosity surfaces as they wonder, “Can I hold that stick? Where do salamanders live and why do they like rocks and stumps? How many deer live in this forest, and why do we call their trails ‘corridors’ when they look nothing like the corridors at school? Why are the caribou endangered and what can I do to help them? Can I rely on the sun, sky, stars, and moon … will they be there for me tomorrow?”

Through play, children form meaningful and trusting relationships, and it is only through relationships that true change and transformation is possible. Play helps us connect with and care for the earth, as we connect with and care for one another.

Imagine a world in which nature holds us, carries us, teaches us all that we need to know.
Imagine a world in which children are told that they are competent and capable, and the words and deeds of the adults around them show them it’s true.

Imagine a world in which we find hope.
Hope in the tall grass and the sounds of children swishing their way through; hope in the spring runoff and the sounds of children splashing and exploring; and hope in the spring peepers and the stillness of the very first snowfall of the year. Experience this through the eyes of a two-year-old, and you’ll begin to know the importance of play.