The CRCF is, by all means, a centre that produces exemplary, cutting-edge social science research that addresses critical themes and a hub that brings together passionate and committed researchers, students and staff. What makes us so unique is our deep involvement and unceasing collaboration with practice and policy milieus allowing our research to make a true impact for children and families who live in vulnerable contexts. Our tremendous community engagement and connection certainly challenges the long-standing idea that academics remain in their ivory towers!

DELPHINE COLLIN-VÉZINA, PHD
CRCF’s Mission is to conduct and disseminate research on effective programs and policies for vulnerable children, youth and their families. We are wholeheartedly committed to:

1. Conducting high quality research;
2. Developing partnerships between researchers, service providers and policy makers to promote research on children and families and to bridge research networks nationally and internationally;
3. Providing research training for graduate and post-graduate students, as well as supporting the development of research capacity in child and family service agencies;
4. Ensuring the timely distribution of our research in a manner that is accessible and relevant to policy makers and service providers.

Throughout the years, the centre’s influence has reached well beyond academia by offering opportunities for researchers, services providers, policy makers, and governmental representatives to develop collaborations within non-academic milieus, giving these actors access to high-quality and sound evidence on which to base their decisions. Our research activities in the centre have had program and policy impact at all levels from local agencies, to departments of social services in several provinces, to Federal agencies and NGOs.
Our Staff

**KELLY FINNERTY**
Financial and Administrative Coordinator. Kelly has been with CRCF for more than 10 years. This financial guru supports our centre on all financial related activities, ranging from drafting urgent contracts to processing expense reports, from managing research funds to planning social events in the centre. She is the go-to person to put out all fires for the CRCF. Kelly’s name is being called a countless number of times every day at the centre!

**PAMELA WEIGHTMAN**
Dissemination and Communication Coordinator. After 7 years of frontline experience in the field of child welfare and mental health in Quebec, Pam joined the CRCF team in 2008. She is the master mind behind spreading the word about the excellent work taking place at the CRCF, via vehicles such as the centre’s annual reports, monthly newsletters, On the Radar publications, website and even Facebook. Most of all, her kind words always warm everyone’s heart during times of duress.
MARTIN CHABOT
Data Analyst. To the outside observers, data analysis may seem like a solitary work with countless hours in front of the computer going through numbers and codes. However, quality research requires a perfect balance between “a great idea” and “an innovative analysis”. Under the supervision of Dr. Tonino Esposito (Canada Research Chair in Social Services for Vulnerable Children), Martin, as our centre’s data analyst, has been a great asset and an invaluable member since 2005, involving in extracting clinical-administrative data from community service partners, producing project based sub-datasets, supporting faculty and student members on statistical issues.

BIRU ZHOU
Academic Associate. After completing her postdoctoral training at the University of Montreal, Biru joined CRCF as an Academic Associate in the summer of 2016. Six months after her appointment, she had produced a Open Access Guide, organized and conducted two training workshops in the centre. With no doubt, she will continue to provide quality trainings to CRCF members, and to effectively facilitate the research and training activities in the centre with the mentality that “Productivity is never an accident. It is always the result of a commitment to excellence, intelligent planning, and focused effort.” – Paul J. Meyer
CRCF in Our Eyes:

Changing the world, one social scientist at a time

“Studying and researching issues surrounding the First Nation Child Welfare in the centre open my eyes to think outside of the box, to question myself for biases, and to look for knowledge in my everyday clinical interventions as a social worker. Here in the centre, I feel I am empowered to do what I need to do as a social worker.”

PAULO FUMANERI

Recent graduate of the Bachelor of Social Work Program at McGill. He will continue his Master’s degree in the School of Social Work at McGill in Fall 2017.

“Being a part of the CRCF was an amazing experience; I learned so much about social work, advocacy, and team work. As a student, it was really special to be included on a team of so many smart, talented, and passionate people, and to be considered an equal part of the team. This experience has definitely shaped how I see my future, in terms of the kind of work I’d like to do and the kind of worker I’d like to be.”

VERONICA KOST

Student from the Independent Study Program, who is interested in examining child and family health and well-being.
A part of me has resided within the CRCF family since 2009 when I began a research block placement to finalize my BSW. As I then worked through my MSW, and now as I move forward through my doctoral research, I witnessed the natural change of faces that occurs, through the passage of time. While the faces may have changed, what has remained vibrantly consistent, is the brilliance, dedication, humour, and joie-de-vivre of every member, past and present, who contributes to making our CRCF family the enriching learning environment that it is. Researchers, students, administrative staff... together, we are the ‘family’ of the CRCF.

GINA GLIDDEN
Ph.D. student from the Social Work Program, who is interested in child and family well-being, as well as childhood disability.
Before coming here, I had not been much exposed to research, but this center *invokes* my research interest. CRCF is a very big part of my life. I spend most of my time in the CRCF. I feel so lucky because I’m welcomed here. I come here every day, hang out with people in the center, and speak to them. The CRCF members emotionally *support* me.

I found that the CRCF member is like a family. If you need something, you can ask it to anyone. It is an *inclusive* environment. You can depend on someone in the CRCF. There is a good mix of students and experts. Some are qualitative, and some are quantitative experts. It is so helpful.

**MOHAMMAD KHAN**
Third year Ph.D. student from Bangladesh. His current research is about poverty, family economic stress and economic interventions among disadvantage populations.

**EMMANUEL CHILANGA**
First year Ph.D. student from Malawi. He is primarily interested in studying child welfare, child maltreatment, food and nutrition security.
CRCF in Our Eyes:

Changing the community, one action at a time

The warm and vibrant energy in the CRCF fosters a unique environment that allows CRCF members to not only do research that matters to children and families, but also stride to take actions that could help children and families in our local communities. Every year, CRCF is committed to different types of social action events, such as Holiday gift baskets to disadvantage families, sponsoring a LGBTQ youth friendship bench and donating LGBTQ positive children’s books at local elementary schools.
Our Donors

The success of the centre and our ongoing contributions to research, education, policy, and practice for child welfare across Canada and internationally are not possible without the generous support of our donors. We are deeply grateful for their assistance and we are confident that the work conducted using these funds will have a direct impact on vulnerable children and their families. Thanks to our donors, the CRCF continues to thrive as a vibrant academic community in child and family research.
ALVA FOUNDATION

The Centre was established in 1985 with a gift from the Alva Foundation, formerly the Southam Foundation. The generosity of the Alva Foundation has played an essential role in the CRCF becoming a leading Canadian social research centre with established partnerships with local, provincial, and national child and family support services and advocacy organizations.

This gift from the Alva Foundation has placed our centre at the forefront of child welfare research in Canada, and it continues to provide foundation funding base for our centre’s core activities, such as research meetings, seminars and staffs. Thanks to this gift, the well-being of children and families has been and will remain our prime research focus, with strong emphasis on research with Indigenous children and their communities in Canada.
RBC CHILDREN’S SERVICES RESEARCH & TRAINING PROGRAM

A very generous ten-year grant from the Royal Bank of Canada has permitted the creation of the RBC Children’s Services Research & Training Program at the CRCF. With the RBC’s contribution, our centre provides technical support and research training to build trust with and to assist policy makers and community-based children’s mental health service providers in developing their research capacity. The seed funding provided by the RBC grant facilitates various research partnerships with local organizations. A triangular collaborative structure, consisting of organizations, professors and graduate students, has formed a unique and effective alliance to create transformational changes to our communities.

In addition, the RBC fund provides support to the monthly Child Welfare Journal Club, which is a joint McGill / University of Toronto initiative to review empirical studies published by leading child welfare journals. Selected articles are summarized and distributed in monthly e-newsletters at no cost to subscribers in both English and French as means to disseminate the most up-to-date research to community partners.
In 2015, the CRCF received a very generous gift from the Gerald Schwartz and Heather Reisman Foundation. The gift has been used to establish a new program of research regarding childhood literacy, which will be used over three years to support scholarly work on childhood literacy programming and advancement including the establishment of a full-time post-doctoral fellowship in this area. In collaboration with the Love of Reading Foundation, the CRCF will build a scientific evidence base to support the literacy of children in vulnerable communities across Canada. The research conducted through this partnership has the potential for playing a seminal role in promoting the well-being of Canadian children and positively influencing their life trajectories.
The CRCF houses on average 27 faculty members and 40 graduate students every year. We also manage on average 30 ongoing projects and over one million dollars of research fund annually. Thanks to the support from both private and public funding, our centre continues to offer a unique platform for developing local, national, and international collaboration in academic and non-academic milieus.
CRCF Main Funders Include

- Alva Foundation
- Association des centres jeunesse du Québec
- Canada Research Chairs
- Government of Manitoba
- Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux
- Jewish General Hospital
- Public Health Agency of Canada
Our Local Community Partners

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Agape Por Colombia
Association des centres jeunesse du Québec
Côte-des-Neiges Black Community Association INC.
Centre de protection et de réadaptation de la Côte-Nord
Centre de recherche interdisciplinaire en réadaptation de Montréal
Centre hospitalier universitaire Sainte-Justine
CISSS Chaudière-Appalaches

CISSS de l’Abitibi-Témiscamingue
CISSS de l’Outaouais
CISSS de Lanaudière
CISSS de Laval
CISSS de l’Estrie
CISSS des Laurentides
CISSS du Bas-Saint-Laurent
CISSS du Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean
CISSS Gaspésie/Les Îles
CISSS Montérégie
CIUSSS Capitale-Nationale
CIUSSS de la Mauricie et du Centre-du-Québec
CIUSSS du Centre-Sud-de-l’Île-de-Montréal
CIUSSS Ouest-de-l’Île de Montréal
First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission
Institut national d’excellence en santé et en services sociaux
Kahnawake Shakotia’takenhas Community Services
La Fondation du Dr Julien
Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec
Montreal City Mission
Old Brewery Mission
Ometz
Step-by-Step Child and Family Centre, Kahnawake
The Montreal Children’s Hospital
The Montreal Children’s Hospital—Adolescent Medicine
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Achievements by the Numbers

Peer Reviewed Publications

More than 300 journal articles, 7 books, and 99 book chapters

99 Research seminars hosted in total in the past 12 years
with presentations by Canadian researchers and international scholars from the U.S.A., Switzerland, Ireland, Palestine, Sweden, Germany, and China.

31 Travel grants provided for CRCF student members to attend training and conferences around the world, including 25 cities, 11 countries in 5 continents (Asia, Africa, Europe, North America and South America).

46 Training events organized

Internal Publications
Monthly Newsletter, 17 issues of In the Know, 17 issues of On the Radar, 300 freely accessible journal article summaries
Our Signature Events: 12 years in the making

2005
With the ALVA FOUNDATION’s endowment fund, CRCF is invigorated and Dr. Nico Trocmé is appointed as the Director of the centre.

2006
As a fast-growing research centre, we house 29 members and staffs in the centre.

2007
With two prestigious CANADIAN FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION FUNDS awarded, the CANADIAN CHILD WELFARE DATA LAB and several laboratories are set up and equipped.

2009
The CANADIAN CHILD WELFARE RESEARCH PORTAL (CWRP) is created and launched to provide access to up-to-date research on Canadian child welfare programs and policies.

2008
A generous ten-year grant from the THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA permits the creation of the RBC Children’s Services Research & Training Program at the CRCF.

2010
The nationwide 2008 CANADIAN INCIDENCE STUDY REPORT on child abuse and neglect is released.
2011
First release of the provincial report on CHILD PROTECTION SERVICE TRAJECTORIES IN QUEBEC (GFISC) tracking over 400,000 children who have Youth Protection Services over the past 12 years.

2012
The SSHRC PARTNERSHIP GRANT – BUILDING RESEARCH CAPACITY with First Nations and Mainstream Youth Protection Services in Quebec is launched.

2013
The CRCF is home to 66 members and four research labs on child welfare research.

2014
Dr. Delphine Collin-Vézina is appointed as the new Director of the CRCF.

2015
The JORDAN’S PRINCIPAL Working Group report, “Without denial, delay, or disruption: Ensuring First Nations children’s access to equitable services through Jordan’s Principle”, is released.

2016
Partnership with the LOVE OF READING FOUNDATION is in full action to promote childhood literacy research and programming targeting at-risk communities.

2017
The CRCF is proudly sponsoring the 6TH CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR CHILD INDICATORS.
Reflecting back on 12 years of research produced in CRCF, I am deeply proud and impressed by how meaningful and impactful our work has been within academia, our community and beyond. I am looking forward to productive and stimulating new endeavours that will further improve the well-being and strengths of children and families facing adversity and challenges. As Frederick Douglass, abolitionist and statesman, cleverly stated: “It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.” Hence, we hope our work can continue supporting prevention initiatives, early intervention, specialized services and effective policies to create positive changes in vulnerable populations.